

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Resettlement And Housing

YESTERDAY'S "policy" speeches by the elected and nominated members of the Urban Council presented the community with a much clearer picture than hitherto of the present-day functions of the Council and served to emphasize its growing responsibilities. The general level of the speeches was good, sober appraisal being allied with constructive suggestions. That several of the members devoted attention to the questions of squatter resettlement and housing was natural inasmuch that the former is one of the chief burdens laid on the shoulders of the Urban Council, and the latter is expected to be brought within its jurisdiction with the formation of the Housing Authority. Attention at the meeting to these subjects was further spotlighted by the presentation of the special sub-committee's report and recommendations on squatter resettlement planning and policy. The report represents an interesting admixture of short and long-term policies, with the endeavour being made to dovetail them in such a manner that they remain complementary. If it is accepted that resettling of the Colony's squatter population is a "must" (and it is difficult to deny the obligation) the sub-committee's recommendations can be regarded as sound and far-seeing. The public will, however, note with mixed feelings that the burden of meeting the financial outlay for the construction of 500 cottages at Ngau Tau Kok, the formation of 670 sites at Reservoir Hill, and the construction of multi-storey resettlement buildings falls on the public purse. On the other hand it must be readily admitted that no practical alternative suggests itself; the Colony is in the position where, if it is to compose the problem of squatter resettlement, it must do so at its own expense.

On the question of low-cost housing for tenement dwellers, one or two Council members advanced pronounced views and some interesting suggestions. Some emphasis was placed on the need for slum clearance and the desirability of erecting higher buildings on the cleared sites. Mr. R. C. Lee's complaint that the Building Ordinance and the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance were obstructing owners of old and dilapidated buildings from re-developing their property on modern lines would appear to have some justification. Nevertheless it is obvious that thousands of tenement dwellers cannot be dispossessed of their accommodation unless they have alternative premises to move into pending resettlement. Moreover the natural fear with new buildings escaping the restrictions of the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, rents beyond the means of the original tenants will be imposed. The general principle that Government should give every encouragement to private property owners to provide better tenements for more dwellers is quite acceptable, but the economic interests of the tenants must also be safeguarded by Government. A concrete scheme presented by property owners for slum clearance and re-development, with proposals for ensuring that those who give up their tenements should be allowed to return to the new buildings at economic rentals, would be a helpful contribution at this time and would, we imagine, stimulate Government to make reasonable concessions on the lines indicated by Mr. Lee.

MORE COMPLAINTS AGAINST HK PRODUCTS

Mr Grimwood Replies To 2 Allegations And Takes Action On A Third

(OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Mar. 30. A further series of complaints against Hongkong-manufactured products has been answered by Mr E. G. A. Grimwood, Director of the London office of the Hongkong Government. Complaint No. 1 came from Mr J. D. Balmforth, a member of the Halifax (Yorkshire) Chamber of Commerce. Mr Balmforth, speaking during a debate in the Chamber on Japanese competition, was reported to have said that children's clothing marked "Empire" was shipped from Hongkong, but was "obviously" of Japanese origin.

Garments which should not have been made in Britain under 17/6d were imported at 4/6d. "Clothing manufacturers are likely to feel the draught," he said. Entering the fray at this point Mr Grimwood pointed out in a letter to Mr Balmforth: "Hongkong has nothing to hide but it does hate misrepresentation."

He explained the procedure for dealing with claims for relief from duty under the Imperial Preference regulations, and promised to investigate alleged cases of substitution if Mr Balmforth supplied him with any evidence.

Mr Balmforth's reply to this was given in an interview with the Halifax Courier & Guardian, which quoted him as saying, "My remark wasn't to be taken too literally, of course. I had no exact figures with me, but they were as accurate as I could remember and served to illustrate my point."

He was pleased to hear of the steps taken to "frustrate the kind of unfair trade practices which I had in mind, but he couldn't think 'offhand' of any other explanation for goods of the quality and price he had seen."

Complaint No. 2 was from Mr Roy Kemp, British knitted glove manufacturer. He was quoted in a press report as saying that Hongkong manufacturers fulfilled Imperial Preference 25 per cent of the "Empire content" requirement by adding a touch of embroidery or other decoration to gloves imported from Japan.

As a result of this competition, the report said, the British knitted glove industry faced a complete shut-down which could throw 50,000 employees out of work.

Mr Grimwood wrote to Mr Kemp denying Japanese gloves were imported into Hongkong for re-export to Britain. The woollen yarn used in the manufacture of Hongkong gloves, he said, was all Empire produced and imported for the most part from Bradford.

GETTING STATISTICS

Mr Kemp told me today that the knitted glove section of the National Hosiery Manufacturers' Federation of which he is chairman, would collect statistics from all members of the industry before deciding their next move. It was possible it would then send a delegation to the Board of Trade.

He couldn't estimate the number of British glove workers disarmed as the result of competition from Hongkong gloves. "If I gave you a figure before we have collected statistics," he said, "it might be very misleading."

Complaint No. 3 ended happily for all concerned. Acting on his promise to investigate any well-founded complaint against Hongkong products, Mr Grimwood took prompt action when he learned a Hongkong firm had produced a toy rubber mask copied exactly from a British product. The manufacturer admitted copying the design and name from the British product, but explained he had no intention of selling the masks. They



Marie Besnard — called the "Black Widow" — seen during her trial at Bordeaux, France, on six murder charges. She was originally charged with poisoning eleven people, but only six are being proceeded with. The trial was postponed two years ago after the defence had claimed that vital evidence had been mishandled. — London Express.

Experts Disagree At Trial

Paris, Mar. 30.

The lawyers for Marie Besnard, on trial at Bordeaux for the alleged poisoning of twelve people, today asked that their client, who had been in prison for the last five years, be granted provisional freedom.

The request, on which the Court will answer tomorrow, came in the third week of one of the most sensational trials in France's legal history.

The Court room seemed transformed into a scientific congress, as France's leading experts on toxicology argued whether or not arsenic found in the remains of Marie Besnard's two husbands, father, mother, mother-in-law, relatives and friends had been poured by the defendant or brought by suburban waters in the country cemetery at Loudon.

The trial saw many claims of the "official" experts, called by the Prosecution, shattered. Among these experts were Prof. Fiedelievre of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, Prof. Rene Fabre, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy of Paris, and Prof. Henri Grifon, Director of the Police Laboratory of Toxicology.

Experts called by the Defence claimed that water and bacteria could bring imported quantities of arsenic on human remains.

A first trial in 1932, when the accused had been charged with eleven murders, had been adjourned when the Defence

lawyer proved the work of experts had been conducted in a completely unscientific manner.

Counsel for the Defence and the Prosecution are now asking that new experts be appointed to decide on the problems set by the experts called earlier. — France-Press.

Japan States Her Conditions

Tokyo, Mar. 30.

Japan will agree to diplomatic relations with Russia whenever the USSR will recognise the San Francisco Japanese peace treaty, Mr. Taketora Ogata, said today.

Answering left-wing questioners in the Upper House, Mr. Ogata also said that the United States has not applied any pressure to influence Japanese policy regarding Russia.

Mr. Shigeru Hori, Agriculture-Forestry Minister, told the Senate the Japanese fishing industry has suffered severe effects from postwar fishing restrictions in the East China Sea and northern Pacific waters.

He said that to date a total of 54 Japanese fishing boats had been seized by the Soviet authorities in coastal waters near Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island.

Mr. Hori said that Japanese-Soviet diplomatic relations are essential to settle the outstanding issues between the two countries. — United Press.

Putting Curb On Lawlessness

Singapore, Mar. 30.

Two hundred and twenty suspected gangsters have been detained by the police since the beginning of the month in the drive by a special branch of the Criminal Investigation Department to stamp out secret societies in Singapore.

And as a result secret society activities have dropped precipitously to nothing in the past 10 days. There were no more than a few scattered groups of secret society members in the past 10 days. There were only a few cases of secret society members in the past 10 days. — United Press.

East-West Trade Expansion Agreement

London, Mar. 30.

Britain, France and the United States today agreed to an increased number of categories and maximum quantities of goods they are now prepared to see exported to Europe's Communist nations.

These included certain types of machines, tools and petroleum products, diplomatic sources said.

The three powers announced at the end of a two-day meeting here "a wide area of agreement" which would provide a basis for encouraging an expansion of East-West trade.

The communiqué said existing controls on trade with Communist China and North Korea "should be continued."

The Ministers leading the three delegations agreed only on the broad headings of the revised list, it is understood. Officials will remain to draw up the details, item by item, in time for a meeting in Paris on April 3 of all 15 nations which co-ordinate the embargo on the export of strategic goods to the Communist states.

The communiqué made a reference to this meeting by stating that today's agreement would "in close co-operation with other friendly countries, permit a relaxation of existing controls to encourage an expansion of trade compatible with security requirements."

The Paris group, with whom the next negotiations will be held, consists of the Atlantic Pact nations, West Germany and Japan.

"Object of these discussions should be to refine these controls by narrowing substantially their scope and increasing their effectiveness."

RIFT AVERTED
Today's agreement averts what once threatened to cause a serious political rift between the United States and her European allies.

Under the "Bulge Act" passed by Congress in 1951, President Eisenhower is bound to cut off aid to countries selling strategic goods to the Communists unless he thinks it would be in America's interest to allow the trade.

Britain called a conference after President Eisenhower expressed misgivings about Sir Winston Churchill's call for a substantial relaxation of the trade ban.

The President's foreign aid chief, Mr. Harold Stassen, to bridge the wide gap between the British and American views. Mr. Stassen, who led the American delegation to the two-day meeting, flew back to Washington tonight.

M. Maurice Schumann, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, represented France. He was also returning to the capital tonight.

Mr. Peter Thornycroft, President of the Board of Trade, headed the British team.

DIVIDING LINES
Mr. Stassen told reporters before leaving London airport: "I want to make it absolutely clear that we have no objection at all about trade in peaceful goods with Russia. We wish to encourage as much of that trade as we can."

In a reference to the tripartite communiqué issued after the London conference, he said: "There is a dividing line between so-called consumer goods and goods that could possibly be used for military purposes."

"Stronger trade relations with the Soviet Union does not necessarily mean a better guarantee for peace. Remember the countries that had trade relations with Germany were the last war."

BILL TO RATIFY EDC PACT
The Italian Cabinet will propose a bill for ratification of the European Defence Community (EDC) pact today.

It is expected that the Italian Government will also propose a bill for ratification of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) pact.

The Italian Government will also propose a bill for ratification of the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC) pact.

The Italian Government will also propose a bill for ratification of the European Economic Community (EEC) pact.

Egyptian Crisis

Students Denounce Council

Cairo, Mar. 30. Thousands of demonstrating Egyptian students denounced the Revolution Council — which yesterday went back on its decision to end military rule in July — in the big quadrangle of Cairo University here today.

Strong police forces stood by outside but there were no disturbances.

Troops and police were still on the alert after four days of crisis, in which Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, 36-year-old Deputy Premier, succeeded in postponing President Mohammed Naguib's plan for an early return to Parliamentary government.

But the thousands of strikers who helped force General Naguib's hand were back at work. Public transport, paralysed during the latest Egyptian upheaval, was again running normally.

Colonel Nasser today visited General Naguib, who collapsed yesterday, soon before it became clear he had lost his fight to end military rule.

The Revolution Council, reversing its earlier decision, postponed a return to Parliamentary life until 1956.

General Naguib — still President and Prime Minister — was reported to be steadily improving.

AVOIDS QUESTION

Colonel Nasser, at a press conference today, sidestepped questions about Egypt's plans for resuming talks with Britain on the future of the Suez Canal zone.

The Deputy Premier told a questioner that Egypt at present was concerned with internal affairs and would deal with foreign policy later. He did not elaborate.

Colonel Nasser said a new Arabic evening paper, reflecting the views of the Government-sponsored Liberation Rally, would appear soon.

It will be called Al Ahrar (The Free) and will supplement the morning paper, Al Gumihour (The Republic) and the weekly, Al Tahrik (Liberation).

President Naguib was well enough tonight to drive to the house of the Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, Dr. Hassan Hodeibi.

It was their first meeting since Dr. Hodeibi was released from internment last week.

Dr. Hodeibi later addressed a meeting of his supporters. — Reuters.

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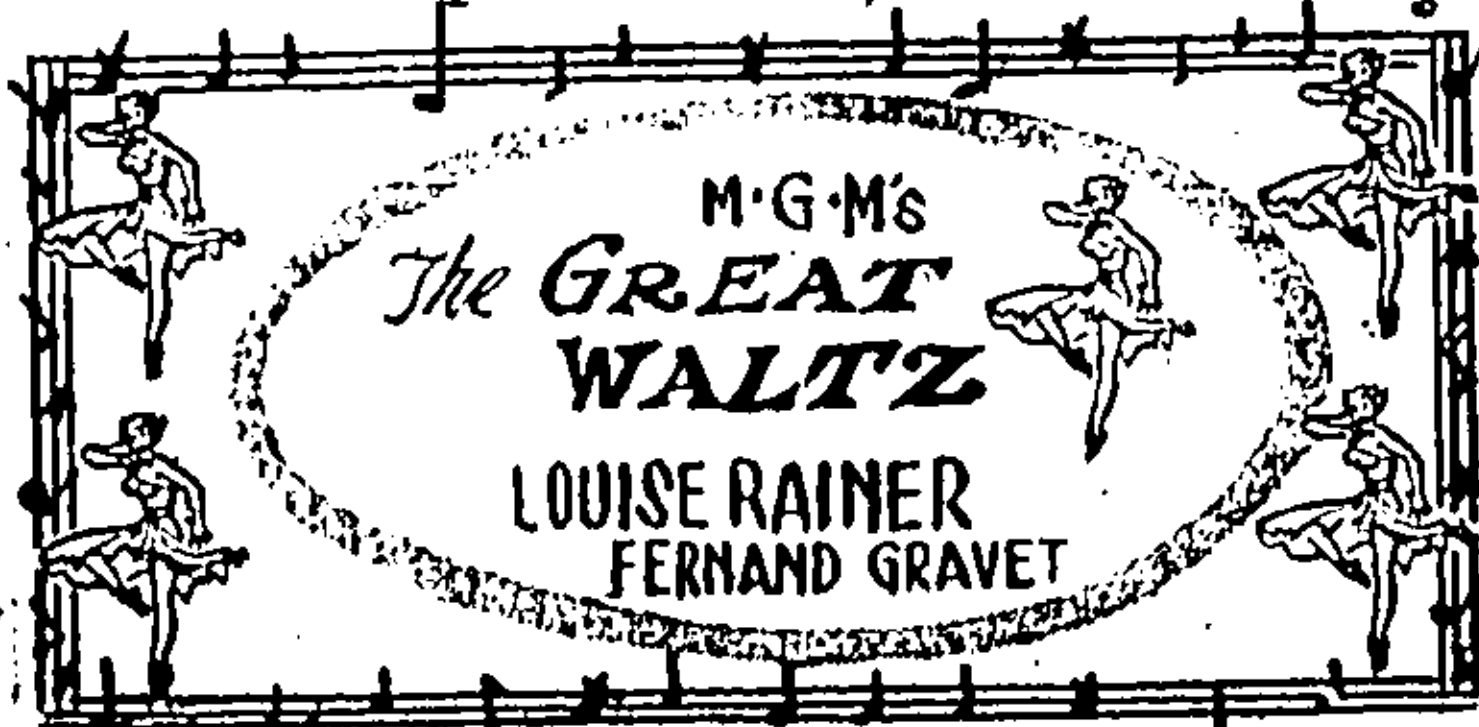
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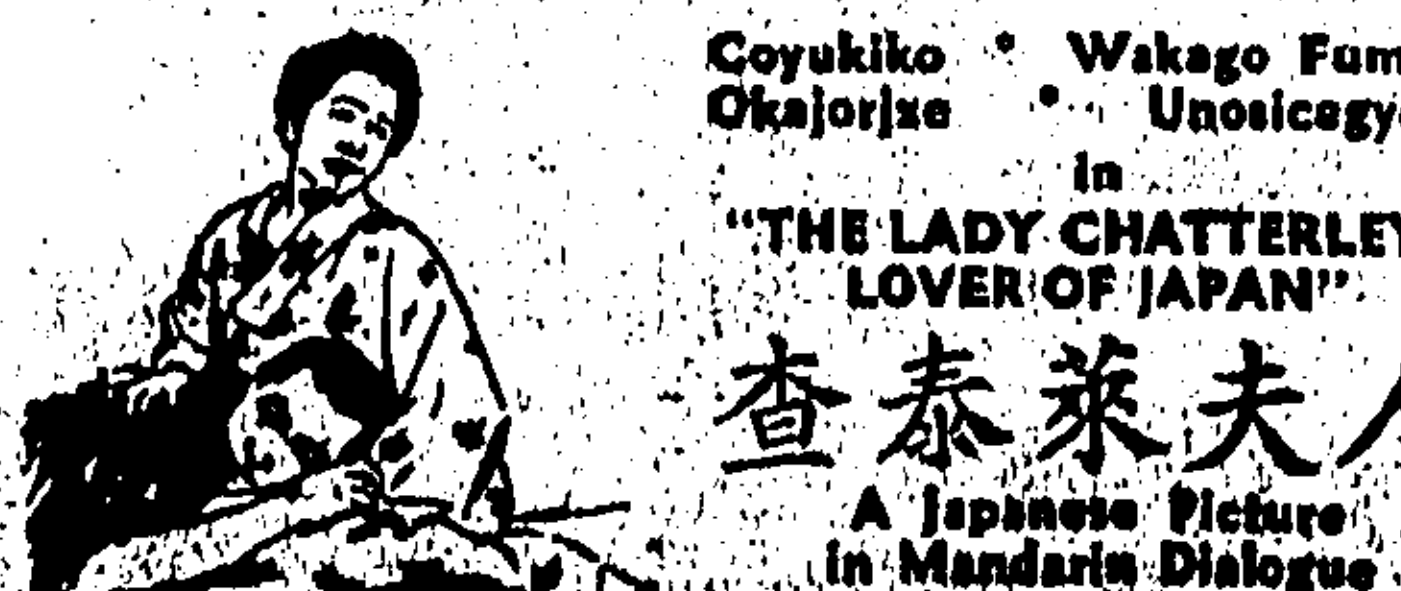
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French Newspapers Speculate:

WILL US TROOPS GO TO INDO-CHINA?

Interpretations Of Mr Dulles's New York Speech

Paris, Mar. 30.

French newspapers today speculated that if the Geneva Conference does not produce a satisfactory agreement on the conclusion of hostilities in Indo-China, the American Government may intervene in the conflict by sending troops.

These were the interpretations of newspapers of the speech delivered last night by the American Secretary of State, Mr John Foster Dulles.

However Mr Dulles' speech was regarded in official quarters in Paris as a redefinition of American policy in the Far East rather than the revelation of any new aims.

The French Foreign Office said it considered the speech a most important declaration. The United States had never before expressed so clearly its interest in the outcome of the Indo-China war and its concern over the Communist menace in Asia, a Foreign Office source said.

The Foreign Office said it had been informed in advance of the broad lines of the speech but had not been asked for any opinion.

One well informed source said Mr Dulles' speech should "put an end to speculation that the United States is going to give anything away to the Chinese Communist in Geneva". There was general agreement in Paris that the policy statement definitely limited the area of negotiation at Geneva but the Foreign Office said it did not consider that the Secretary had "torpedoed" the Asia conference.

TWO MAIN POINTS

Diplomatic circles suggested the two main points to be drawn from Mr Dulles' declaration were:

1. Proof of the ever increasing importance which the American people attach to the South-East Asia questions.
2. An affirmation of the desire—already expressed by Washington—to prevent any important positions in this area from falling under the domination of the Communists, whether they be Chinese or other nationality.

Apart from Government offices, the speech appears to have had little impact on general political circles.

INTERVENTION

The press on the other hand is full of speculation particularly on lines that if Geneva produces no agreement the United States may be ready to step in with troops.

The independent financial evening newspaper L'Information quoting sources in Washington said: "It cannot be excluded that the Secretary judged it opportune to prepare American public opinion which is hostile for the moment to almost intervention in Indo-China for important decisions which may be taken by the Pentagon."

L'Information said Mr Dulles' reference to "united action" was an allusion to "the possibility of internationalising the Indo-China conflict."

The independent Le Monde said the speech would "throw cold water on the hopes exhibited recently in Paris that the United States would pay the Chinese Communists a price to induce them to abandon the Vietnams." It said that before the Geneva Conference the Americans should reply to this question by saying: "Either we assure us relief by sending troops or you help us to negotiate."—Reuter.

NEW POLICY

Ottawa, Mar. 30.
Canada was not consulted by the United States Secretary of State, Mr John Foster Dulles, before his speech calling for "united action" in Indo-China, but did expect to be, the External Affairs Minister, Mr Lester Pearson, told the Commons today.

Mr Pearson said Canada would expect to be consulted before the United States announced any new policy in which it expected Canadian co-operation. He said that Mr Dulles' speech was a "major statement of policy" in New York last night and that it was "a very important statement."

Wall Street Brokers "On Wheels"

New York, Mar. 30.
The world's largest brokerage firm announced today it will put Wall Street on wheels.

Winthrop H. Smith, managing partner of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, said the firm has turned three custom-built buses into completely equipped brokerage offices. The buses are designed to bring the firm's full facilities "to the doorstep" of thousands of investors in 15 outlying communities around Chicago, Boston and Newark, New Jersey.

Mr Smith said the new mobile offices will make investing more convenient. "Putting brokerage offices on wheels seems particularly timely now," he said, "because of the great interest in the New York Stock Exchange's new monthly investment plan, which enables investors to buy stocks for as little as \$40 every three months."—United Press.

CZECHS CUT PRICES OF FOOD

Vienna, Mar. 30.

The Czechoslovak Government has decreed a general price reduction on food and current consumer products effective April 1, Radio Prague announced tonight.

The announcement said the reduction, the third since 1948, when the Communists came to power, "was the result of a decision by the Government and the Central Committee of the Czech Communist Party" which held separate meetings yesterday. The latest reduction took place on September 28, 1953.

The new measure involves a reduction on prices of food products ranging from eight to 25 per cent. The Radio further announced that effective April 1, the sale of gold and silver jewellery products would be authorised.

The Radio quoted a speech by the Czech Prime Minister, Herr Vilam Siroky, saying that the new price reduction would raise substantially the people's standard of living in accordance with the policy stipulated by the Czech Communist Government since its policy declaration of September 15 last year.—France-Press.

New Way Of Bandaging



An entirely revolutionary method of bandaging—with the aid of "Tubegauz", a seamless tubular gauze bandage, is demonstrated at the School Central Training School, London. The circular bandage is applied with the aid of an applicator which in the case of fingers is like a metal finger-stall which is slipped over the finger—and the tubegauz pulled on to the base of the finger. The applicator is then withdrawn allowing the tubegauz to come away and cover the finger. For arms, legs, or the head (as seen here), a form of cage in different sizes have been invented. This circular cage can be slipped over an arm or leg, passed to and fro over the wound, applying the bandage quickly and neatly. — Express Photo.

"No Desperadoes And Triggermen In UN"—Says Lodge

United Nations, Mar. 30.

The United States Ambassador, Mr Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., said today that agreements with the United Nations did not contemplate admission to the United States of "desperadoes and triggermen" to attend meetings of the world organisation.

Mr Lodge's declaration, made at the opening of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, touched off a sharp exchange with Russian and Czech delegates.

Mr Lodge asked for the floor to "kill once and for all the false propaganda" that the United States has prevented attendance of accredited representatives at United Nations meetings by refusing to issue visas.

Of four cases in question, he said, visas had been granted to three persons. The fourth person, Iraq Eskandary, an Iranian seeking admission to represent the Communist-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions, had been refused admission for "reasons of national security," Mr Lodge said.

"The salient facts of Eskandary's notorious record explains the situation fully," Mr Lodge said. "Eskandary was sentenced to death for participation in a conspiracy to murder the Shah of Iran, and he is accordingly a fugitive from justice. He also has been expelled from France."

NOMINATED BY USSR

"I am certain that no Government—and I particularly include the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia—would expect the United States to permit him to come to New York, no matter what his purported business or alleged purpose."

East-West Trade Talks Deferred

New York, Mar. 30.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council today deferred a Soviet bid to give priority of discussion to the issue of East-West trade.

It approved instead a British proposal, supported by the United States, to postpone consideration of the question until the summer session of the Council in Geneva.—Reuter.

QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

At 2.15, 5.20 & 9.30 P.M.

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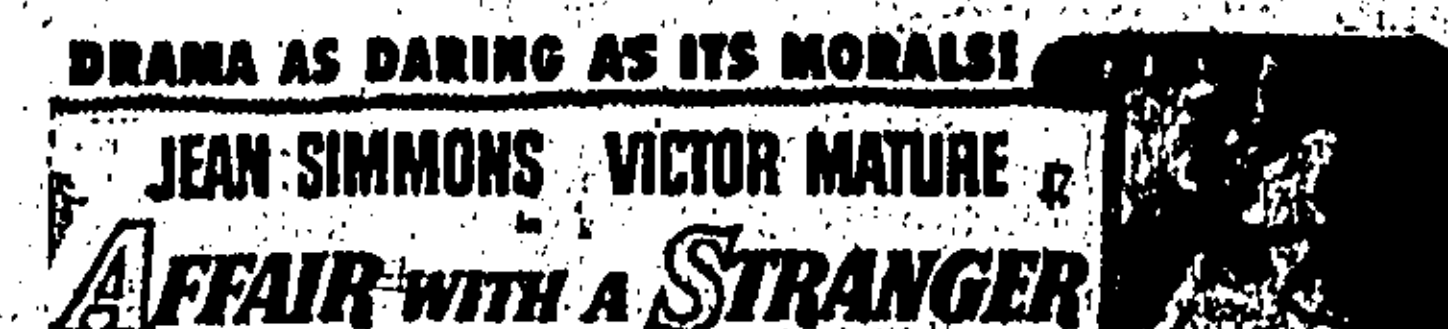
EMPIRE Theatre

SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

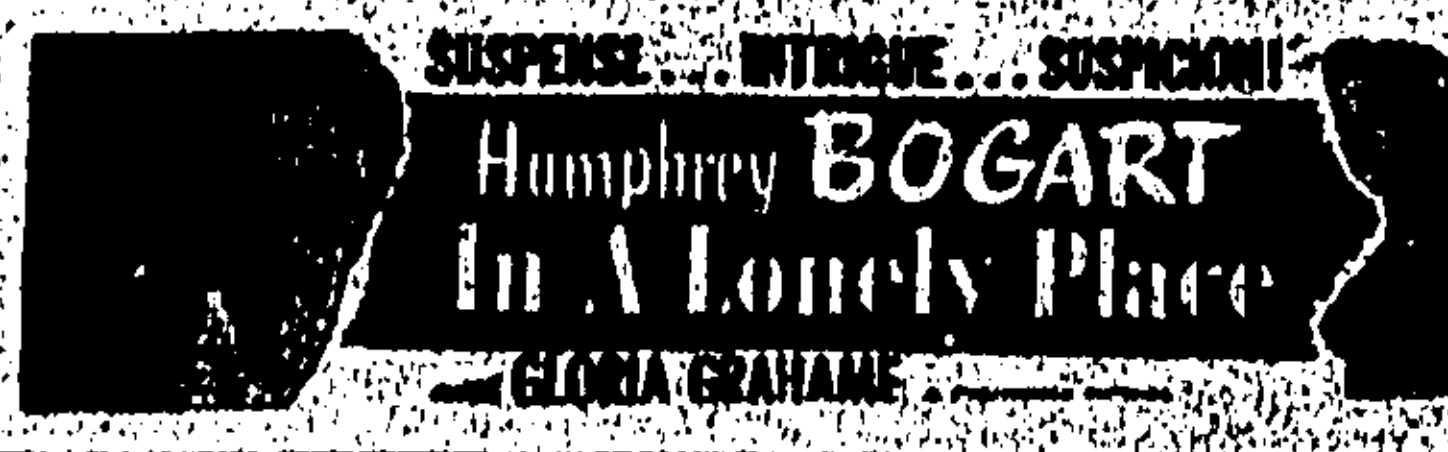
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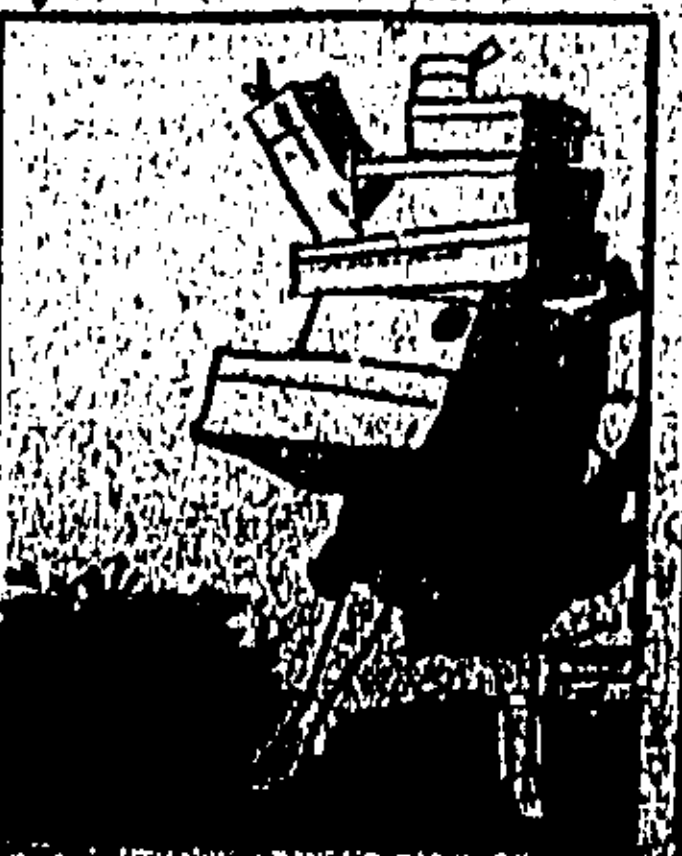
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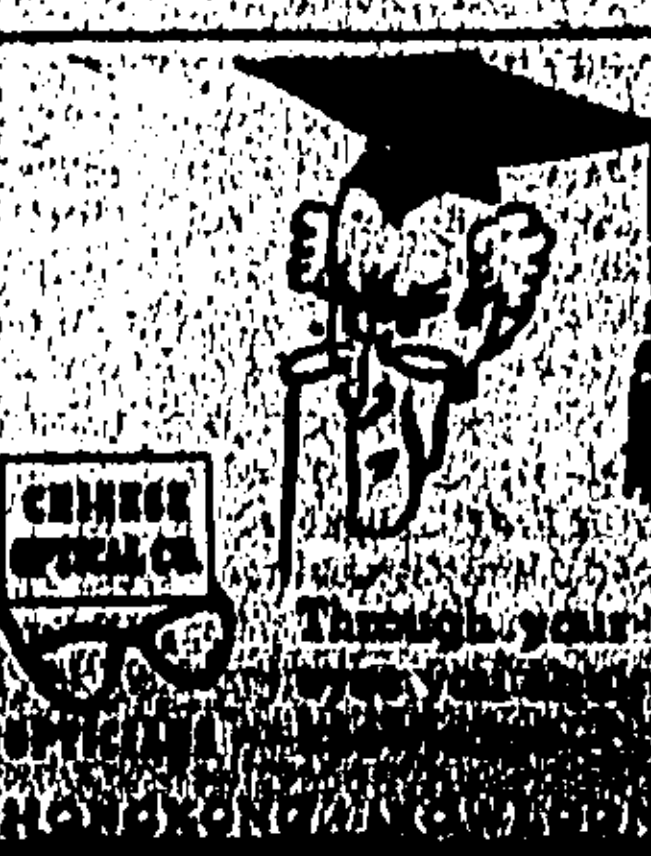
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Carried unanimously



US DEVELOPING "A FAMILY" OF BIG HYDROGEN BOMBS

Object Of Present Tests At Bikini Atoll

ATTEMPTS TO OVERCOME THREAT OF RUSSIAN ATOMIC ATTACKS

Washington sources said yesterday it seemed certain the purpose of the H-Bomb explosions earlier this month at Bikini Atoll and other tests next month was to perfect "a family of hydrogen weapons ranging upwards in power from around the equivalent of one million tons of TNT."

Possible reasons for this were found in a statement by the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee who said Russia now had at least 1,000 long range bombers capable of atom-bombing or perhaps even hydrogen-bombing the United States.

Another source, unnamed, said in Washington America had little if any technological lead in the field of hydrogen weapons and they were relatively easy to make.

But in Paris the NATO Supreme Commander General Alfred Gruenther said yesterday the West could defeat Soviet Russia even if the Russians dropped a hydrogen bomb first.

Washington, Mar. 30. Official sources hinted today that the two H-bomb tests in the Pacific this month established that it can be made both simpler and cheaper than had been supposed.

One source, who asked not to be identified, said that one of the explosions employed a method of triggering and an unnamed material used by the Russians in their test H-bomb explosion last August.

This apparently was the March 1 explosion whose power astonished atomic weaponers and frightened much of the world.

Another source said the United States had little if any technological lead in the field of hydrogen weapons. He said they were relatively easy to make.

By 1960, he said, it was possible that nations like France, for example, may possess H-bombs.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. Lewis L. Strauss, just back from the Pacific, called at the White House presumably to brief President Eisenhower on the giant explosions of March 1 and March 28.

Some sources expected that either the President or Mr. Strauss later on would issue a fuller statement on the United States' nuclear weapons program and, particularly, on the Pacific tests now going on.

States' nuclear weapons program and, particularly, on the Pacific tests now going on.

PERFECT A FAMILY

It appeared certain that the purpose of this month's explosions and others scheduled for next month was to perfect a family of hydrogen weapons ranking upwards in power from around the equivalent of one million tons of TNT.

In disclosing the second test of the current series at the Eniwetok-Bikini proving ground, the Atomic Energy Commission made it clear it intends to go ahead with the experiments despite criticism in both Europe and Asia.

The announcement of Friday's successful test was delayed until it was certain that no one had suffered radio-active ash burns like those experienced by some Japanese fishermen after the March 1 explosion.

By the time the announcement was made, the cloud blown into the upper air by Friday's explosion presumably was many hundreds of miles away and too thoroughly diffused to be a hazard to anyone.

Friday's was at least the fourth hydrogen explosion in world history. The United States had detonated two previously, the first in November, 1952, and Russia at least one. At least 50 nuclear blasts now have been set off, all but nine by the United States.

Mr. Strauss revealed in yesterday's announcement that before the Friday test planes "carefully searched" the vast proscribed hazard area to make sure that there would be no accidental incidents like those of March 1.

1,000 BOMBERS
The Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee Mr. Dewey Short, said today Russia now has "at least 1,000 long range bombers capable of delivering atomic bombs... on the continental United States."

Writing in the current issue of the trade publication "Planes," he said the Red planes also could deliver "thermonuclear devices which they may possess." That is the term used by United States officials for hydrogen bombs.

The latest reports from behind the Iron Curtain indicate that the masters of the Kremlin are focusing increasing attention on the development of late-model, long-range strategic bombers," he said.

Mr. Short said Russia now has "40,000 military aircraft, compared with a strength of about 30,000 for the United States today."

Mr. Short urged the development of a "national air policy" by Congress and the Administration. He said that "tremendous economies" were possible by use of "consistent" programming of aircraft production."—United Press.

"West Can Defeat USSR"—Gruenther

Paris, Mar. 30.

The NATO Supreme Commander, General Alfred M. Gruenther, said today the West could defeat the Soviet Union—even if the Russians dropped a hydrogen bomb first.

General Gruenther also rebuked his chief lieutenant, Marshal Alphonse Juin of France and affirmed that the European Defence Community would work smoothly. He was speaking on Western defence problems before Press reporters at his SHAPE Headquarters near here.

General Gruenther said he knew of no substitute solution for German rearmament within the European Army treaty.

"The German contribution to Western defence can be achieved perfectly within the EDC. We have no other plans no matter whether it is the best solution," he said.

Marshal Juin, who is Allied Central European sector Commander, called the treaty unworkable last week-end, and was summoned on Wednesday by Premier Joseph Laniel to give an explanation of his blunt remark.

General Gruenther's remarks were considered as aimed at the outspoken Marshal who earlier supported EDC.

The General was asked about European defence against hydrogen-bomb effects.

MOST IMPORTANT THING
He said the "most important thing is to prevent a bomb from being dropped."

"Once it hits our troops, or cities, the situation would be extremely serious. But we, too, have a considerable destructive capacity."

And in an all-out attack were launched against us, our bombing possibilities in retaliation would top by far that of our enemy."

General Gruenther said that Russia had no reply to the United States B-47 atomic bomber. The Russians have the TU-4, a copy of the United States B-29, "which we consider as outdated."

"The TU-4 could, of course, reach the United States and deliver an atomic bomb but its radius is too small to return to its base. Naturally enough the raid would mean that the enemy lost a plane," he said.

General Gruenther said the Russians were rushing work on a series of A-bomber prototypes and that within a few years they may have "as many as good as or even better than the B-47."—United Press.

Paris, Mar. 30. Radio Dikaria's Arabic service monitored in Paris today said that a major fire broke out early this morning in the office of the British information office in Djakarta.

The fire could not be brought under control for several hours. The radio added that an inquiry had been opened into the cause of the fire. —Reuter.

A Pedicure Before The Easter Parade



The Duke Lifts Gothic Embargo For A 20-Year Old Girl

Perth, Mar. 31.

A small group of Australians will be allowed on the strongly guarded wharf alongside the Gothic today because of a letter which a 20-year-old girl wrote to the Duke of Edinburgh.

The girl, Elaine Williams of the Perth suburb of Hamilton, asked his permission to enter the wharf area to see her uncle, a member of the Gothic's crew.

Because of the anti-polio precautions the uncle is confined to the ship and unable to come ashore.

A spokesman for the Gothic's agents said Captain A. Alcheson had told them he had been instructed to order the issue of a wharf pass for the Williams' family subject to approval by the security police.

Mrs. Williams said she understood the Duke had even the letter and recommended that Elaine's request be granted.

Today the Royal couple will eat their first meal in a private home in Western Australia, but the food will be brought from the Gothic and the Royal guests will be segregated from their hosts because of polio precautions.

They will eat at the luxury farm of a West Australian stockbreeder, Mr. William Burges, and his wife.

Food will be brought from the Royal yacht in a refrigerated van.

The Queen and the Duke lunched in the air on food from the Gothic during their flight to country centres yesterday.

FREE FROM HITCHES

A report to the Australian Government on the tour is expected to show that it has been remarkably free from hitches of any kind.

But it is also expected to recommend that after the first and major tour of Australia future Royal visits should be restricted largely to capital cities, while trips to the country should be semi-private.

As the Lord Mayor's ball last night the Queen did not dance but smiled happily at the scene. A 6,000 square foot dance floor had been built on the university lawns among floult popular trees.

The guests did not stand and stare at the Queen instead of dancing as at other functions of the Australian tour. As soon as the music struck up, they moved away from the Royal dais and began to dance.

The emphasis was on informality. Many of the 1,100 guests were under 30 and the band played up-to-the-minute dance tunes as well as traditional waltzes.—Reuter.

Laksoni, the young Indian elephant submitted gracefully to a pedicure by his keeper, Buck Jones, at the London Zoo last week.

She knows it is most important to look her best because for six days this week during the Zoo's Easter parade she will be taking children for rides around the Zoo.—Reuterphoto.

Australia

Has A Killer Jellyfish

Sydney, Mar. 30.

A jellyfish found in Northern Australian waters is considered to be the deadliest creature in the world by Frank McNeill, marine zoologist here.

Mr. McNeill believes that the floating tentacle jellyfish which stung and killed eight-year-old Clarke Currow at Darwin recently was a Cubamedusa jellyfish, also known as a sea wasp.

Clark was standing in shallow water when the creature drifted against him and whipped its long wisp streamer about him. The child ran screaming to the beach, collapsed and died within a few minutes.

"The Cubamedusa is deadlier than the most poisonous snake," McNeill said, "and has caused death in less than three minutes."

He added, "More than 12 people have been killed by Cubamedusa stings in Northern Australian waters. It is common only in tropical waters, but it has appeared off the Queensland coast."

"The Cubamedusa is about the size of a man's hand, with tentacles between two and four feet long."—United Press.

Nutrition College To Be Formed

Bombay, Mar. 30.

A college of nutrition and catering, the first of its kind in Asia, is to be established in Bombay by the All-India Women's Food Council.

The college is expected to start functioning from next June. It will give both theoretical and practical training regarding food and dietetics and will include a laboratory for practical demonstrations.

The comprehensive syllabus includes such subjects as health and hygiene, accounts, correspondence, purchase and storage.—Reuter.

Russia Has "Home Guard"

Recruiting Trouble

Moscow, Mar. 30.

Thousands of Russians are being trained in a part-time "home guard", but more volunteers are needed.

The Soviet "home guard" is known as DOSAAF, the Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Armed Forces. According to the Army newspaper, "Red Star", it is "many millions strong."

But Lieutenant-General N. F. Gritchin, Chairman of DOSAAF, is not satisfied.

Writing in "Red Star", he said that there are still many defects in the activity of the Society which impede the further development of defence work among the population of our country. The progress achieved cannot satisfy us.

"Thousands of car drivers, tractor drivers, motor-cyclists and other specialists have been trained without leaving off production."

"Many thousands of DOSAAF members have learned to shoot accurately, to sail boats and fly gliders, to parachute and use radio techniques and means of anti-aircraft and anti-submarine defence."

NOT SATISFACTORY

"Wide development has been given in the Society to shooting, flying, motor-cycling and other forms of applied military sports, amateur radio and modelling aeroplanes and ships."

But, he added, in spite of continuous growth, "it cannot be said that the increase in the number of members of the Society is going on satisfactorily everywhere."

DOSAIF groups are organized in factories, offices, schools, residential blocks and collective farms. A key task for the organization, according to General Gritchin, is the training of youths before they are called-up for two-year's service with the armed forces.—China Mail Special.

US Playwright Refused A Passport

Washington, Mar. 30.

The U.S. State Department announced today it had refused to grant a passport to the American playwright, Mr. Arthur Miller, who had planned to go to Brussels for the opening of his play "The Crucible", or known as "The Witch's Hat" in the French version.

A State Department spokesman said Mr. Miller had requested a passport on March 2.

The application was turned down under regulations providing for refusal of passports to persons suspected of supporting the Communist movement, whether or not these persons were Communist Party members.

The passport application was refused on March 5.

Questioned at his residence in New Milford, Connecticut, Mr. Miller said he supported no Communist movement.

When the passport was refused, he was told by the authorities that the time required to study his application was insufficient in view of the date he wanted to leave the United States.—France-Press.

End To Karen Revolt Predicted

Rangoon, Mar. 30.

A high-ranking Burmese officer today predicted an early end of the Karen rebellion in the Tenasserim area in south-east Burma.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tun Sein, the commander of the fifth infantry brigade, said his troops now occupied key points around Khawshah, the only rice bowl available to the Karens in that area.

He added that he had ordered his troops not to advance nearer than five miles from the border between Siam and Burma in order to avoid any possible incidents.—France-Press.

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TO-NIGHT

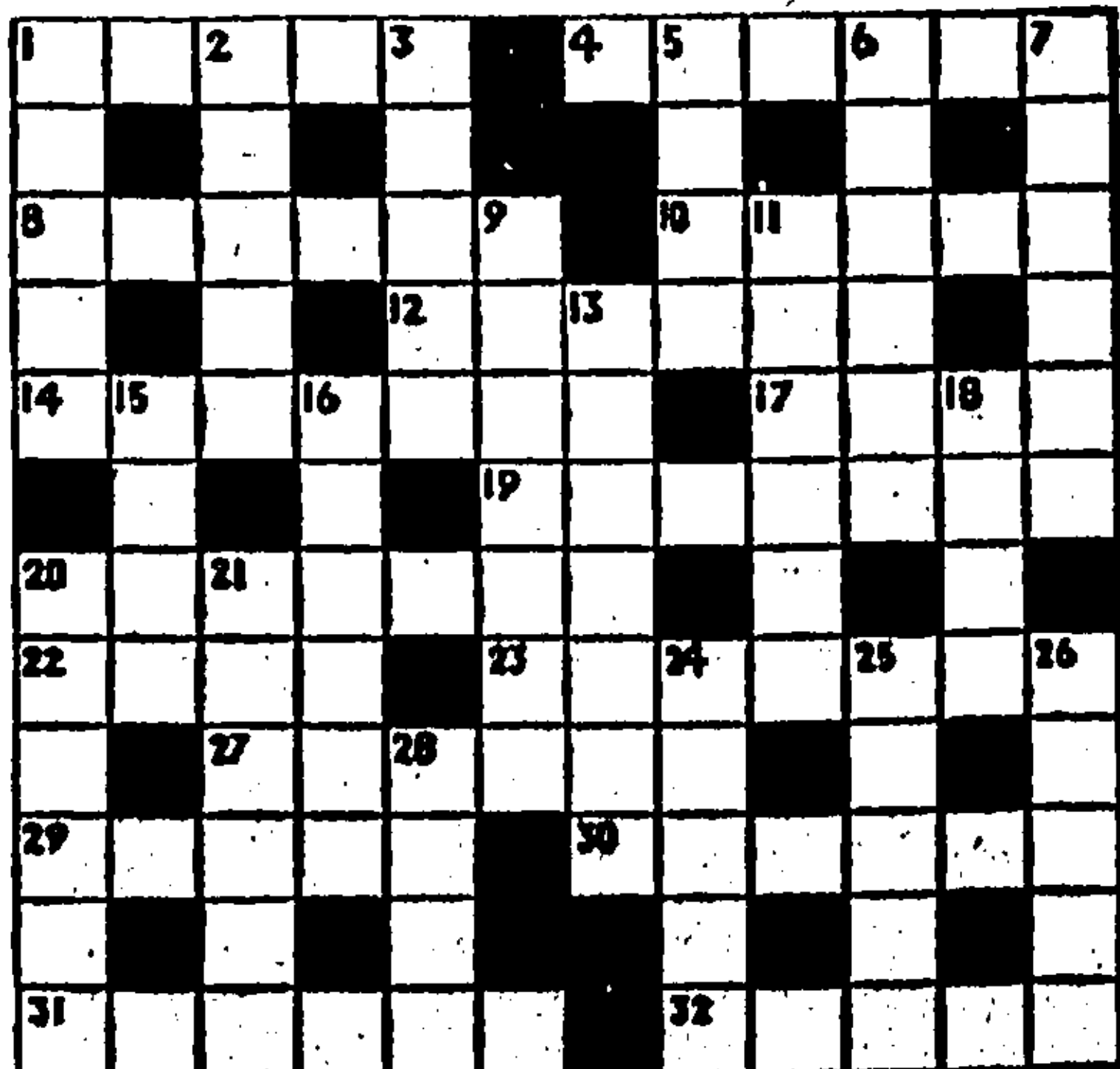
PAT KAY & BETTY ANKERS

Jack Galla

At The Hammond Organ

Reservations Tel. 34035-33441

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
1 Fertile spot (5).
4 Kind of bullet (6).
8 Banishes (6).
10 Drug (5).
12 Blush (6).
14 Sideways (7).
17 Fewer (4).
19 Accompanies (7).
20 Go down (7).
22 Extent (4).
23 Commissions (7).
27 Nap (5).
28 Cook (5).
30 Scant (5).
31 More profound (6).
32 Garb (5).

DOWN
1 Musical work (5).
2 Rod (5).
3 Sewers (5).
5 Measure of land (4).
6 Counterfalter (6).
7 Negligent (6).
9 Withdraws from (7).
11 Basque game (6).
13 Abandons (7).
15 Bitter (4).
16 Attack (6).
18 Collar-fastener (4).
20 Dropped (6).
21 Near to (6).
24 Swift (5).
26 Tend (5).
28 Casts off (5).
29 Besides (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD. — Across: 3 Amateurs, 8 Heap, 9 Dominant, 11 Corporal, 13 Compote, 15 Despairs, 19 Test, 21 Miracles, 24 Tormentor, 26 Miles, 27 Regrets, 29 Down: 1 Chain, 2 Pair, 4 Hoot, 5 Tail, 6 Urge, 7 Black, 9 Doped, 10 Mates, 12 Opiano, 14 Curve, 16 Under, 17 Spear, 19 Tutor, 22 Rhye, 23 Mam, 24 Role, 25 Lead, 26 Soap.

Black Blizzards Make Noon Like Midnight

Droughts Turn Vast Areas Of USA Into Dusty Deserts

The worst drought conditions in two decades, accompanied by great dust storms, have turned vast areas of mid-west and south-west America into a desert, according to reports from America.

A return to the dust-bowl disaster of the Thirties is feared. Thousands of farmers already have been forced to retreat from their barren lands to the cities.

A "black-blizzard" dust storm hundreds of miles across and two miles high recently swept over the entire mid-west from Nebraska to the Mexican border.

DUST BLIZZARDS
From Amarillo, Texas, a resident told a New York friend over the telephone: "We are in a 'complete black-out' today."

though it's the middle of the day. The street lights are on. It's like midnight. Cars are barely creeping. Schools are closed."

Hundreds of thousands of people were forced during the storm to remain indoors. Housewives blasted their doors and windows cracks to prevent the choking dust from penetrating their homes.

In Amarillo, a resident said: "The dust is so thick that it is impossible to see more than a few feet ahead."

The Agricultural Department pointed out that many landowners in the past 10 years had planted trees around their farms to prevent an erosion.

Paul Swisher, Colorado State Commissioner of Agriculture, reported that 70 percent of the wheat crop in that Colorado county is a total loss.

"Damage to the land by erosion runs into the thousands of acres," he said. "Thousands of miles of fences are covered or blown out. Many cattle are wandering aimlessly over the desolate landscape, blinded by dust."

Nathaniel Gubbins

IN the belief that the frustrated man of the mid-20th century needs a new drug to escape from reality into an artificial paradise Aldous Huxley has been experimenting with mescaline, the stuff Red Indians said cheerily with before they got at the fire-water.

He tried it out as a substitute for alcohol, or, to quote from his new book, "The Doors of Perception," as a drug "which would more nearly approach the ideal than the wine bibbing past and the whisky drinking present."

According to him some of the advantages of mescaline over alcohol are the absence of hang-overs and the fact that the drug "does not drive the taker into the kind of unbridled action which results in brawls, crimes of violence, and traffic accidents."

In other words, when you are full of mescaline you don't insult anybody, poke anybody on the nose, or fall under a bus, and you feel fine in the morning.

But some of his experiences under the influence of the Red Indian tippie do not seem quite so jolly as common experiences under the influence of alcohol.

He became aware of "a slow dance of golden lights and sumptuous red surfaces swelling and expanding." The folds of his grey flannel trousers "became passionately important" to him, and he thought the four bamboo legs of a chair were "affodils."

All the same he had the advantage over unfortunate chaps who can't leave a bottle of Scotch alone, or "at no time did he see the faces or forms of men or strange animals."

For my money the nicest thing about mescaline is that it makes everything seem unimportant. When you have had a shot of it you can see no reason for doing anything in particular, or caring what other people do—as if you had been born into the old English aristocracy.

Although I have always thought that this is the correct attitude of mind, I have never been able to achieve it. But

when I take to mescaline I shall feel like Marie ("Let them eat cake") Antoinette; and when you think about time "I shall give them Mr Huxley's mescaline inspired happy-wacky answer to the same question."

I shall say: "There seems plenty of it."

DIALLING TUM

Hullo. Is that my stomach? Your stomach speaking.

No more Scotch will be coming down.

Oh, good.

I'm sending down mescaline instead.

Mescaline?

It's a new drug. But it won't upset you at all.

How do you know it won't?

I have been reading about somebody who tried it. His stomach didn't mind.

Perhaps he had a stronger stomach.

His liver didn't care either. All three felt terribly fit the next morning.

I'm glad to hear it. I shall be seeing the slow dance of golden lights and sumptuous red surfaces swelling and expanding.

Pardon?

Do you mind repeating that? I said I shall be seeing the slow dance of golden lights and sumptuous red surfaces swelling and expanding.

How very interesting. What do you think that will be?

Perhaps a large matron in red evening dress with nettle-rash and an illuminated bosom.

Really.

All the chair legs will turn into affodils.

Have you been overworking lately?

After one go of mescaline I shan't do any more work.

Hope shall use live then?

I don't know and won't care. Nothing will matter to me but the folds in my flannel trousers.

Don't you think you ought to see a doctor?

Time won't matter to me any more.

You don't mean meal times?

There won't be any meal times. Nothing but mescaline will come down.

I say this is carrying a joke too far.

Good-bye, Tum.

Don't hang up on me.

Good-bye, Tum.

Do be reasonable.

Good-bye, Tum.

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Good-bye, Tum.

He said: "Fifty-eight seconds to go. Shall I call a cab?"

She said: "If I go I shall never come back. Never, never, never."

He said: "Goody, goody, goody. I can have a bridge party every night."

World Strategists

I THINK you'll have to admit now, old man, that the Berlin conference is a flop.

I don't admit anything of the kind, old man. You can't say that until they've all packed up and gone home.

After Molotov's proposals that's all they can do, old man.

What were Molotov's proposals, old man?

I suppose you read the papers?

Of course I did, old man. I was just wondering if you had read them. I suppose you must have noticed that Molotov offered a 50-year security treaty to include all European countries?

Naturally, old man. But who's going to take any notice of a Russian guarantee of security?

If you had no intention of taking any notice of Russian guarantees why have a conference at all, old man?

I didn't arrange the conference, old man. Nobody said you did, old man. But you will have to make up your mind whether you're against the proposal on political grounds or against it because you can't accept Russia's word.

Nobody accepts Russia's word, old man.

If it comes to that I don't suppose Russia would accept ours.

Which brings me back to my original argument that the conference is a flop. What's the use of offering guarantees if neither side trusts the other?

Well, old man, if you knew more about international politics you would know that each side has to show its people that it has tried reasonable proposals for the peace and failed. Then each side can accuse the other of warmongering.

Are you suggesting that's the only reason for the conference, old man?

Perhaps not the only reason. There is always the hope that there will be common ground for agreement on some points.

When Communism and capitalism are incompatible and their differences can only be resolved by war?

Don't you think that's rather a defeatist argument, old man? No, old man. I just happen to be a realist rather than an optimist burying his head in the sand.

I suppose you know that your policy would lead inevitably to world war, old man?

I don't know anything of the kind, old man. But I prefer to face facts rather than live in cloud cuckoo land.

I'm not accustomed to being called either cloud cuckoo or an ostrich, old man.

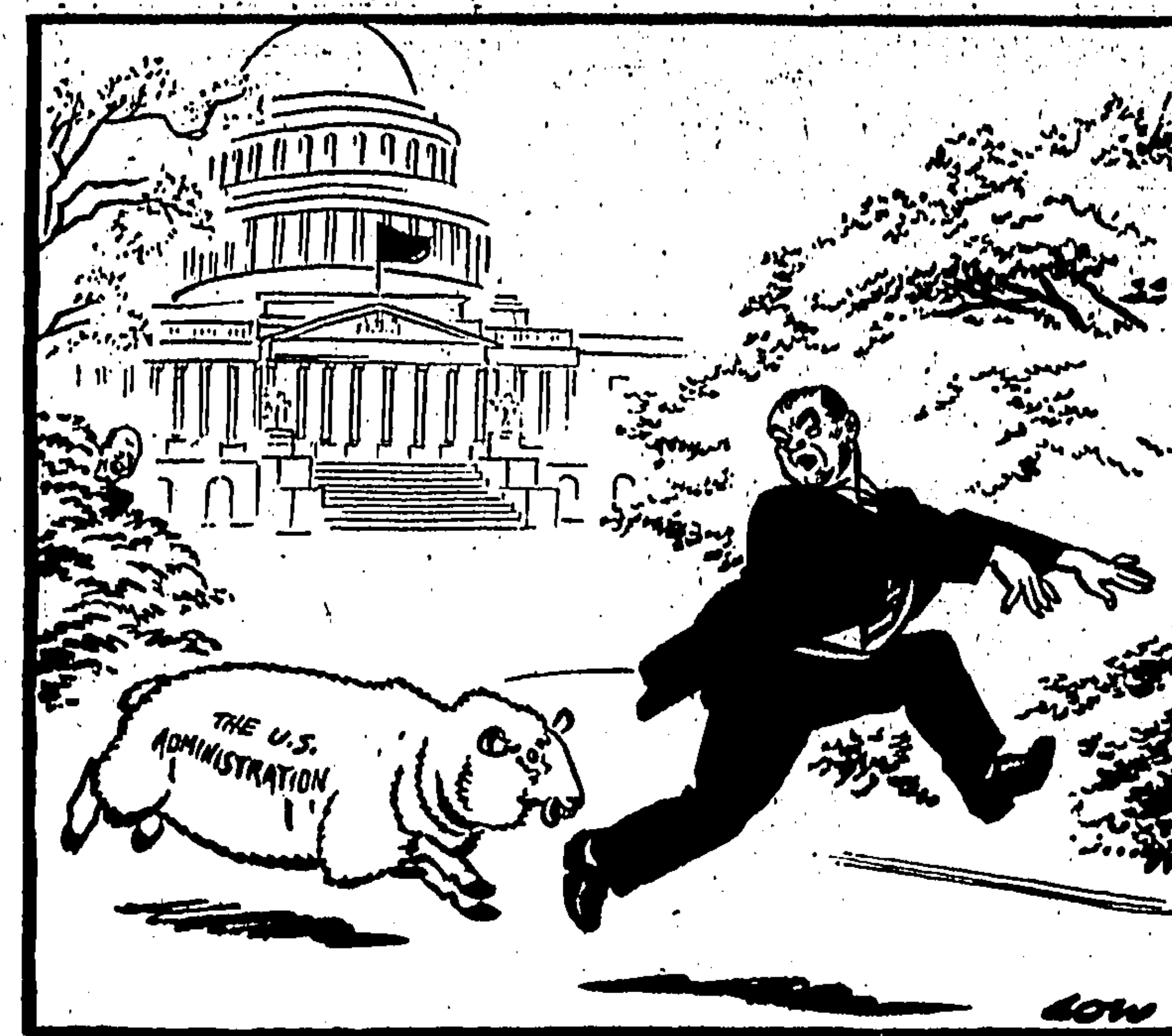
Nobody was calling you a cuckoo or an ostrich, old man. In that case I must be getting deaf, old man. I rather hoped this was going to be a friendly argument.

So did I, old man. But perhaps we'd better drop it, old man.

Good night, old man.

Good night, old man.

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ON THE RUN

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On the 16,000-foot summit of El Palmo, holy mountain of ancient Incas, explorers have found the body of a 12-year-old girl carefully laid on the altar before her god, probably more than 500 years ago. In this snow-bound fastness, she has been preserved throughout the centuries. The great Inca empire flourished for 1,000 years before it was shattered by Spain's lust for gold.

THE SILENT ANDES YIELD SECRETS

By LES ARMOUR

THE towering, snow-capped Andes are mute. They do not give up their secrets easily.

But, slowly and painfully over the years, archaeologists and historians have uncovered a fabulous story.

The story of the Incas — tough, ruthlessly efficient empire builders, whose territories once extended from the borders of modern Colombia, through Ecuador and Peru to the middle of Chile — contains material for a thousand novels.

Among them were skilled surgeons — men who could and did perform delicate brain operations which surgeons find difficult even today. Among them were road builders who thrust lines of communication through one of the most terrifying stretches of terrain in the world. Among them were craftsmen and architects whose work vies with that of ancient Greeks in precision and beauty.

Their rulers were geniuses in social organisation. Throughout the empire, no one ever went hungry, no one was ever

out of work. Every inch of arable land was meticulously cultivated. For clothes, they bred and raised Alpacas, sheared their wool and wove it with skill into cloth no one would be ashamed to wear today.

The Incas, oddly, had no money. Government officials organised production, collected most of the grain and manufactured goods, and shared them out according to a master plan which covered the empire.

For themselves they built comfortable homes; for their gods, majestic stone temples.

Many of their cities were metropolises with carefully worked out plans. Cuzco, the capital and holy city, tucked into fertile mountain valley, was a centre of 50,000 when the Spaniards came. In planning and beauty, it made most of the European towns of the time look like shanty settlements.

The Emperor or Great Inca lived in modest but

comfortable quarters, with many of today's comforts, including baths with hot and cold running water.

Most of the empire's 16,000 citizens lived on the farms, but there were five or six cities big enough to rival Cuzco.

★ ★ ★

Unfortunately, the seeds of the empire's destruction had been laid before the Spaniards came. It grew up 1,000 years before in a time of tribal warfare and chaos in the Andes. The warlike Incas moved north and south, gradually conquering their neighbours.

In many areas, the land was divided into three parts — one for the local inhabitants to raise food for their own needs; one where food to maintain the empire was raised; and one for the Sun god.

Local religions — with their gods personifying the natural elements — were subordinated to the Sun god of the Incas.

Roads connected the whole empire with the capital, and troops were stationed in stone fortresses in the outposts.

Gradually, control became more and more difficult. As the conquered tribes began to take on the civilisation of the Incas, regional rivalries inevitably developed.

And, as empire spread, communications became more difficult. The Incas had never developed a satisfactory method of writing (though they were well on the way to doing so) and orders, laws and records had to be passed by word of mouth.

★ ★ ★

Traces of older and more primitive religions smouldered beneath the surface. To top it off, a bitter feud had developed among factions in the royal family in the years just before the conquest.

The Incas were no match for the Spaniards. They had no guns and no horses. More serious, they did not understand the Spaniards' ways. They were bewildered by the lust for gold which, to them, was merely pretty stuff for ornaments. They naïvely took the Spaniards at their word only to be betrayed time and time again. And the Spaniards, who used a variety of methods to conquer their victims, attacked their holy cities, melted down some of the beautiful gold ornaments and committed murder and rape against the people. But at last, the Spaniards had won.

THE SIGNOR LIKES TO SCINTILLATE

By BERNARD RONALD

"DIAMONDS," sings the Eternal City of Rome, 1954 version.

Neckties are fixed with a pearl-topped pin. Wrist-watches are draped with fancy chains bearing an assortment of gold or silver charms. Rings are worn of massive proportion, sometimes in plain gold, sometimes with a stone. Cuff-links must display a matching sparkle.

When the smart signor steps out, he puts a jeweller's polish on his personality. Not for him the fear of looking conspicuous; nor the belief that only women should adorn themselves and their attire with accessories.

Is this distant offshoot of the far-famed Legionary of old displayed on account of his peacock eccentricities? On the contrary. The Italian fashion writers describe him as "chic" and "refined" and "romantic."

In Italy a man must not be a colourless character. If he is to make a hit with the opposite sex, this is the understanding. But very few have the particular vision

of the Eternal City of Rome, 1954 version.

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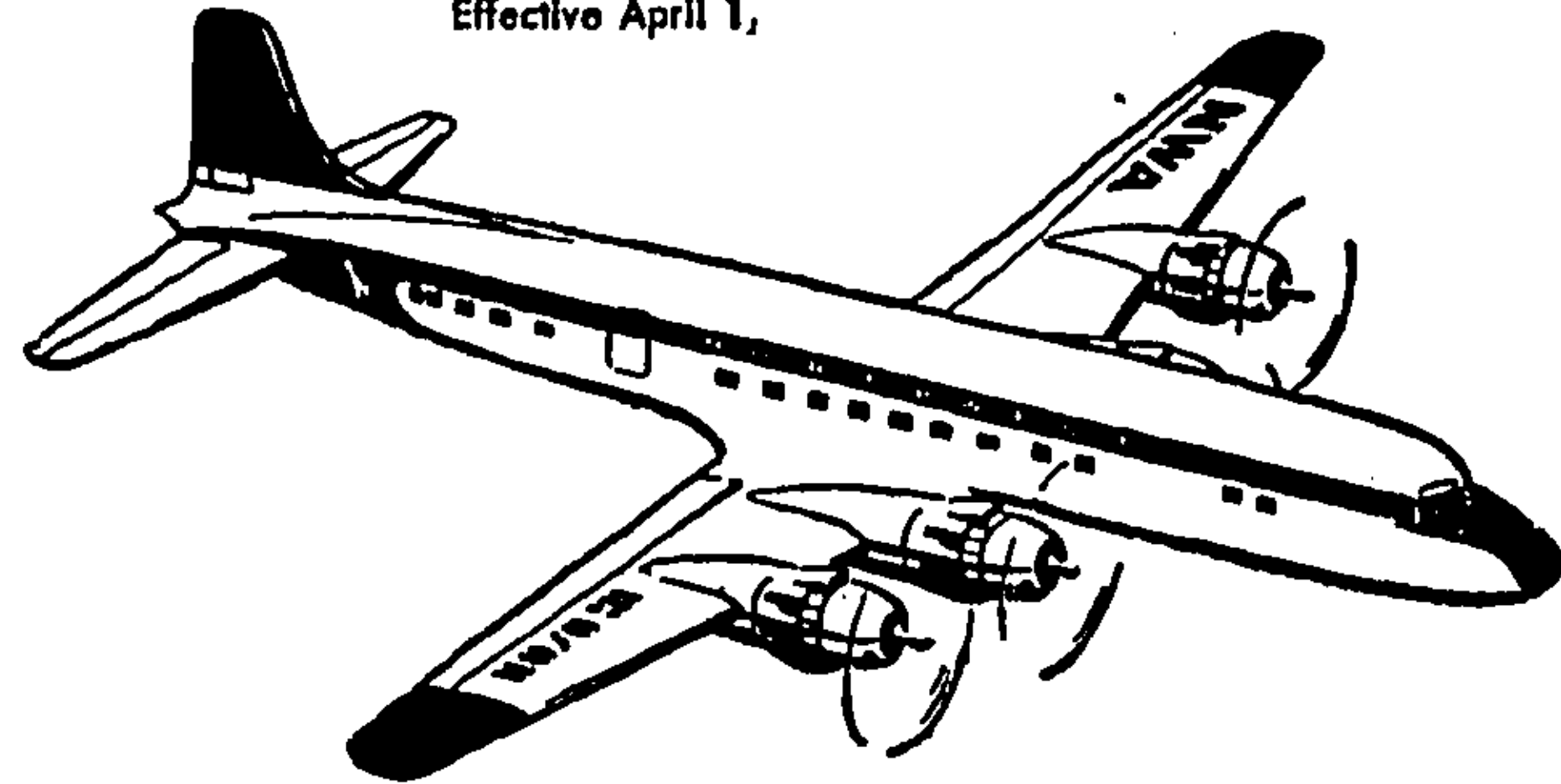
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Fit PHILCO

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JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Bad Players Make Their Own Trouble

By OSWALD JACOBY

THE vital message that I want to convey today is that bad bridge players are not as successful as good bridge players.

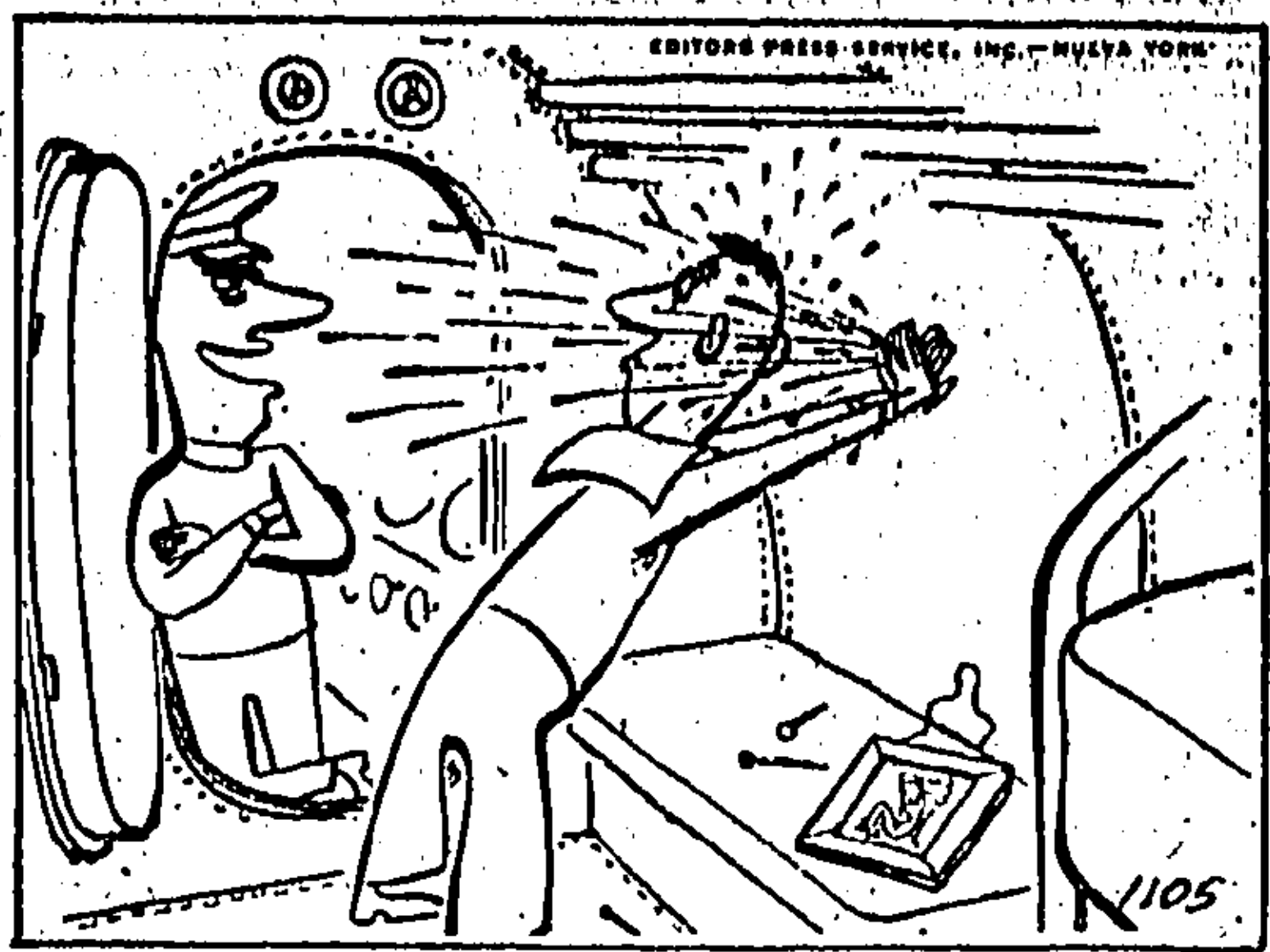
If this bit of news fails to startle you, I'll add something to the story. A bad player will often suffer in a hand in which he has done nothing wrong—simply because he is known to be a bad player. It's very sad, but it's the truth.

Take today's hand for example. West was known to be a bad player. In this hand he never made the wrong move, but he suffered just the same.

West opened the line of clubs. This was the best possible opening lead. With any other opening, South would have had the chance to explore. South would draw trumps, try out the spades, lead towards the hearts, and so on.

If everything else failed, South might eventually fall back on a club finesse. The club opening lead, however, forced South to make up his mind at once for or against the club finesse.

If West had been a good player, South would have been very much in doubt about right play. An expert West



• BY THE WAY •

by Beachcomber

ASKED by her father if she had seen C. Suet Esq. lately, Minnie said very primly, "We met by chance the other day and said good-morning."

"But Jove," said her father, mimicking her manner. "Whort about a bollix? C. Suet Esq. is actually a good you cope. Lady Crampdown? Minnie's mother intervened. 'Don't tease her, Fred,' she said. 'When I was courting you,' said Mr. Slopeowner, 'we didn't waste time like this. Do remember when I kissed you outside Wheeler and Poughnutt's warehouse? It was a fine day, wasn't it?'"

What are we doing?

A CHALLENGE to Everything! A woman, child, animal can afford to miss the gripping controversy which begins in the first chapter. Monday, March 31, 1954. The subject? What Are We Doing? A fine day, wasn't it? A fine day, wasn't it? A fine day, wasn't it?

there will be a summing-up by Mrs. Esther Spalding ("Greynose") of the Wolverhampton Naturalists' Club. Miss Bunch, vital petite, 12-year, dynamic, and human, is known to millions as the girl who cycled through India in 1946. Mr. Spalding, balding, fortyish, is the life wire in the West. Mr. Spalding, balding, fortyish, is the life wire in the West. Mr. Spalding, balding, fortyish, is the life wire in the West.

Book notes

UNDER a new by-law tramps may no longer sleep and eat in Dorset's public library. Readers have objected to bits of kipper found in Vol. III of Bratwurst's "Vegetable Kingdom," as a pillow. Will the British Museum Reading Room follow this lead and banish wayfarers? The rule at the London Library is that a tramp who is vouched for by a member may sleep one night on the premises, but must not cook a meal. Four links who recently mended saucers in a corner of the Bodleian turned out to be New College men, and were asked to leave.

YOUR BIRTHDAY... By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

BORN today, you have exceptional talents, combined with a restlessness which may make it difficult for you to settle down to anything. You are always looking for the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. You are not a person to be taken for granted. You are not a person to be taken for granted. You are not a person to be taken for granted.

You also have a feeling for colour and form and cannot be happy in unpleasant surroundings. You must have beauty and harmony around you at all times. Fond of children, you will want a large family of your own. Jack and this, you would be a fine one to adopt children, for you would give them the same love and care as if they were your own flesh and blood.

You are moody and have a philosophical turn of mind. If things don't go as you want them today, then tomorrow, you hope, may bring what you want. Learn to make the effort to alter what you want today, rather than sitting around waiting for something to turn up!

Cultivate a practical outlook, if you can. Your enjoyment of the arts, especially music, is exceptional. You probably have some talent in this direction as well, and it cultivated in early youth you might find music your happiest profession.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20).—A close acquaintance may need your help. Be eager and willing to do everything you can without being asked.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 20).—Facts and figures tell the story today. Not rumors and guesses. Be sure you are sure of what you are saying.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20).—Take a positive attitude on life even if it seems a little gloom. Your progress will be faster.

CANCER (June 21-July 20).—Hold tight to your budget. Extravagance now may mean you will forfeit something you want more, later on.

LEO (July 21-Aug. 20).—Practicality can be serious today. Get a necessary job done on time. It will pay real dividends.

VIRGO (Aug. 21-Sept. 20).—Do not be possible misrepresentation for facts in an important matter. Avoid being deceived.

LIBRA (Sept. 21-Oct. 20).—A fine day to really get moving. Do not let your budget be a complete joke. You have planned for quite a long time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 21-Nov. 20).—You can rise to new heights if you keep your goal clearly in mind. Don't let yourself be diverted from it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 21-Dec. 20).—Don't let business matters get you depressed. Avoid emotional stress and play it safe today.

PISCES (Dec. 21-Jan. 20).—Be very careful if making a new contract or closing a deal. Be sure you are sure of what you are saying.

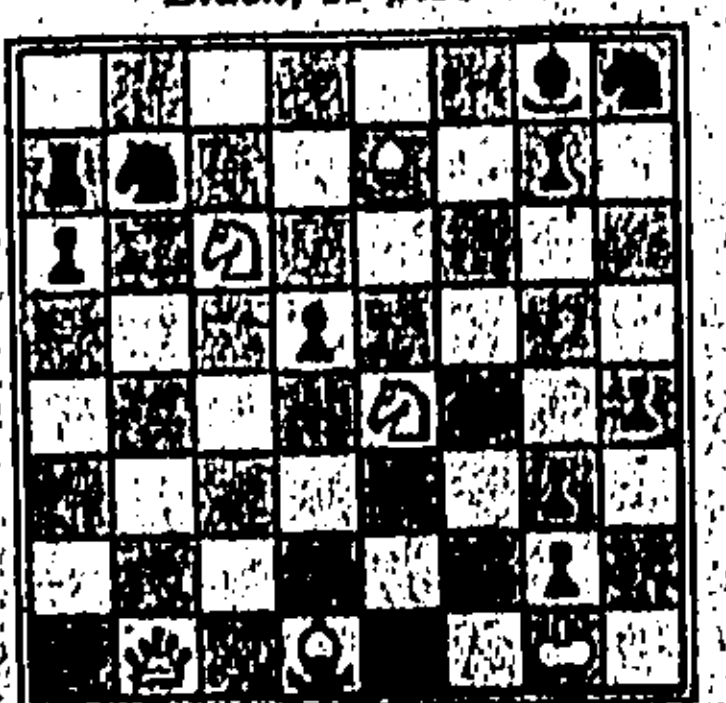
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19).—If you work around machinery, be especially careful today. It could cause a serious accident.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20).—If discussing study the life of someone who reached success and follow a good example of how it's done!

CHESS PROBLEM

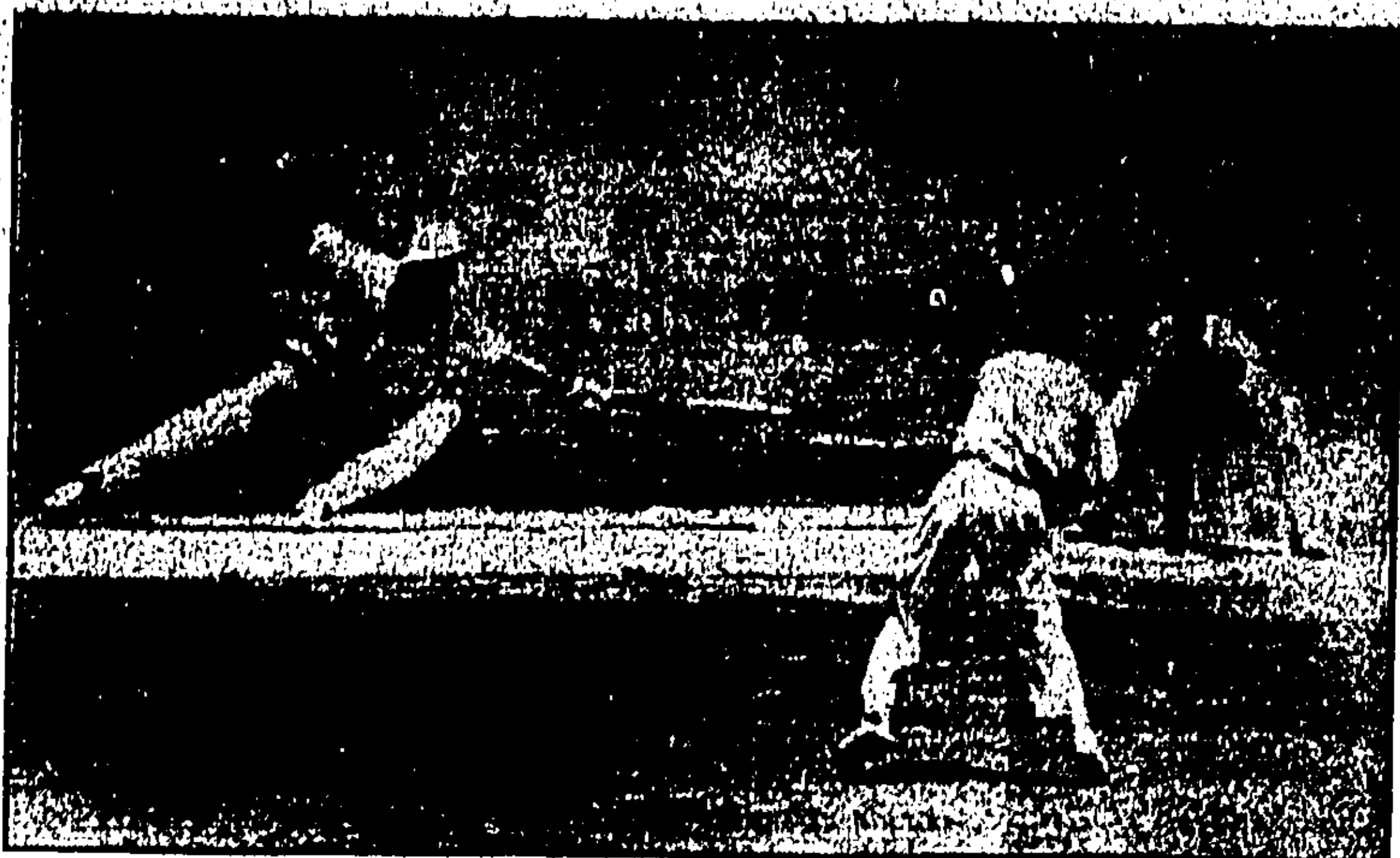
By J. J. RIETVELD

Black, 11 pieces.



White, 8 pieces.
White to play; mate in three.
Solution to yesterday's problem: 1. R-Q8; 2. R-R8; 3. R-R8; 4. R-R8; 5. R-R8; 6. R-R8; 7. R-R8; 8. R-R8; 9. R-R8; 10. R-R8; 11. R-R8; 12. R-R8; 13. R-R8; 14. R-R8; 15. R-R8; 16. R-R8; 17. R-R8; 18. R-R8; 19. R-R8; 20. R-R8; 21. R-R8; 22. R-R8; 23. R-R8; 24. R-R8; 25. R-R8; 26. R-R8; 27. R-R8; 28. R-R8; 29. R-R8; 30. R-R8; 31. R-R8; 32. R-R8; 33. R-R8; 34. R-R8; 35. R-R8; 36. R-R8; 37. R-R8; 38. R-R8; 39. R-R8; 40. R-R8; 41. R-R8; 42. R-R8; 43. R-R8; 44. R-R8; 45. R-R8; 46. R-R8; 47. R-R8; 48. R-R8; 49. R-R8; 50. R-R8; 51. R-R8; 52. R-R8; 53. R-R8; 54. R-R8; 55. R-R8; 56. R-R8; 57. R-R8; 58. R-R8; 59. R-R8; 60. R-R8; 61. R-R8; 62. R-R8; 63. R-R8; 64. R-R8; 65. R-R8; 66. R-R8; 67. R-R8; 68. R-R8; 69. R-R8; 70. R-R8; 71. R-R8; 72. R-R8; 73. R-R8; 74. R-R8; 75. R-R8; 76. R-R8; 77. R-R8; 78. R-R8; 79. R-R8; 80. R-R8; 81. R-R8; 82. R-R8; 83. R-R8; 84. R-R8; 85. R-R8; 86. R-R8; 87. R-R8; 88. R-R8; 89. R-R8; 90. R-R8; 91. R-R8; 92. R-R8; 93. R-R8; 94. R-R8; 95. R-R8; 96. R-R8; 97. R-R8; 98. 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NEAR ONE FOR STOLLMMEYER



A swift return by Lock (foreground) and the usually imperturbable Jeff Stollmeyer, the West Indies skipper, dives for his crease — an incident during the West Indies' mammoth innings against the MCC at Trinidad.—Central Press Photos.

George Digby Seeks Double No. 2

By JAMES ARK

Before the turn of the century a small boy of 12 was called on to make a momentous decision. He was the youngest music-hall artist in the country, but, being a Cockney, he hankered after a life with horses rather than the footlights.

Was he to remain on the stage or enter a racing stable? The prospect of wearing a silk jacket astride a racehorse proved the stronger, and the boy entered the stable of W. T. Robinson at Foxhill.

He has no reason to regret the choice as he had a long and successful career as a jockey in France and England, and now, back in England, he is hoping to saddle his fourth Ascot Gold Cup winner this year.

To win the Gold Cup for the second year in succession with the same horse would be nothing new for Newmarket trainer George Digby, the music-hall prodigy of the 90's. He accomplished the feat with Invincible in 1928-29 for the late Mr Reid Walker.

LAST STRIDE

The interest is more personal this year as Soupey is owned and trained by Digby. Last year Soupey won the Gold Cup in the last stride. The camera had again to be consulted after the Goodwood Cup with a similar result. Finally, in the Doncaster Cup, the camera could not divide Soupey and Nick in Rocen.

Digby gives much of the credit to Charlie Elliott, whose brilliant timing was responsible for Soupey's unbeaten record in the Cup races of 1953.

"Elliott is just about the best jockey I have ever seen," says Digby, "and I've seen them all in the last 60 years. He will make just as good a trainer."

Now Digby is wondering who can replace Elliott this year. It was not anticipated that Soupey would be in training this

year. An attempt was made to syndicate him as a stallion but his worth was not appreciated in this country. So Soupey is back in training and looking better than ever.

NICE BLOOM

What a kind horse he is! Now a six-year-old his mind is still on racing. He is as quiet as an old sheep in the stable and is ideal to train as he does what is asked without fuss.

I have never seen Soupey look so well or robust as he does today. He carries a nice bloom on his coat and I feel safe in saying he will be as good as ever this season.

Premotion and company will find it no easy matter to overcome Soupey in that last testing uphill stretch in the Gold Cup at Ascot.

Soupey will have at least one outing before then. He may run in a mile and a quarter race at Sandown or in the mile and a half Burwell Stakes at Newmarket.

D'Angelo has been retained mainly to help Soupey in his preparation for the Cup races. Fred Soupey gone to the stud D'Angelo would now be trained for jumping by Alex Kilpatrick.

GIVEN EVERY CHANCE

Min Arcf—Arable for "Who Knows?" has been brought along steadily, and in two seasons has had four races. I have no idea whether he will improve as a four-year-old, but he has been given every chance.

There are a couple of well-grown two-year-olds who look as if they should be capable of winning later in the season. I liked the good-boned Wonderlight, one of the first crop of Ridge Wood, whose stock all seem to have ample scope. Joylight is a tall Bobbleigh filly who might develop earlier.

But it is obvious from the fact that Digby bestowed on Soupey that he is the apple of the trainer's eye and unless I am mistaken the horse will prove worthy of it.

(—London Express Service)

Football League Managers Only Want More Say In Selection Of Internationals

London, Mar. 30.

Few English Football League managers appear to favour any radical change in the method of international selection. They, themselves, simply want more say.

This is one of the conclusions that may be drawn from the conference of managers called by the Football Association to discuss means of improving English football standards.

They did not seek to replace the present England selection committee, nor was the position of Mr Walter Winterbottom, England's team manager, called into doubt.

Their main recommendations — to be considered by the Football Association at an early date — were for an advisory panel of managers to assist the FA in international preparations, and for further managers' meetings in the regions.

It can be assumed that the panel would comprise men of practical experience able to offer constructive and far-seeing advice. The names of Jimmy Seed (Charlton), Vic Buckingham (West Bromwich Albion), Tom Whittaker (Aston Villa) and Ralph Carter (Leeds United) spring to mind.

The cynic may recollect that the FA once enrolled a Technical Advisory Committee of managers for a very similar purpose.

Thus, while Mr Arthur Dorey, the Football League President, who acted as Chairman of the conference, declared that it had been "most important and beneficial to English football," some may prefer to reserve opinion.

BASIC PROBLEM

The basic problem has still to be stated, which comes of making a selection of players from a large number of clubs.

Technical Advisory Committee can help to find the solution — or a compromise.

At the conference, short shift was given to a proposal that 15 star players be released for a year in order to form an international side. The proposer suggested that clubs received £2,000 sterling compensation for each player.

Even at today's inflated value, £20,000 sterling seems a high price for the FA to pay for England's international prestige, bearing in mind that the players chosen might not blend. It is surely possible for England players to benefit from pre-match training together without the FA being saddled with such a huge financial responsibility.

The conference appears to have achieved most in its discussion on improvements to the general standard of football. Several prominent managers for catching on the necessity for an early age and teaching them the art and skills of the game. Professional clubs could do much for local youth, it was emphasised.

If the more backward managers have learned from the words and example of others, and make a serious attempt to encourage youngsters on their own grounds, a very real purpose will have been served.

WEST INDIES DISMISSED FOR 139 IN THE FIFTH TEST AT KINGSTON

Kingston, Mar. 30.

England made a great start in the fifth and final Test here today, dismissing the West Indies for 139—the lowest score of the series—and then making 17 for no loss before the drawing of stumps.

Trevor Bailey was the most successful bowler, claiming seven wickets for 34 runs—his best Test performance.

The pitch was slow but the ball lifted at times and the humidity made it swing.

John Holt was out to the fifth ball of the innings, well taken by Tony Lock at short square leg off Trevor Bailey.

Bailey struck again with the fifth ball of his third over, an inswinger which Everton Weekes touched but which took his off stump out of the ground.

Soon afterwards Jeff Stollmeyer tried to slash Bailey through cover but snicked the ball into Godfrey Evans' hands behind the wicket.

Two balls later Freddie Trueman got Frank Worrell on a defensive stroke which sent the ball in the air. John Wardle took the catch well at short fine leg.

Dennis Atkinson, who had two escapes when he had scored seven, played out with

Clyde Walcott to lunch, when the West Indies were 38 for four. In his opening spell of eight overs Bailey took three for 11 and Trueman had one for 12 in six overs.

Shortly after lunch Bailey dismissed Atkinson, making half the side out for 58.

After Gomez was caught, Walcott and McWatt added 36 before Walcott was caught by Laker off Lock.

One run later rain stopped play and tea was taken during the break, which lasted 45 minutes.

When play was resumed Bailey had McWatt splendidly caught at short fine leg by Lock in his first over, and 18 runs later bowled King.

Trueman finished the innings, getting Ramadhin leg before. England, left with 35 minutes to bat, played out time without loss, scoring 17 runs.

Eight Divisions In This Year's Tennis League

At the Annual General Meeting of the Hongkong Lawn Tennis Association held at the Hongkong Cricket Club yesterday, it was decided to have eight divisions in the Tennis League this season. The League will start on May 3 and entries will have to be sent in by April 15.

There will be four divisions in the men's league, two in the ladies' league and two in the mixed doubles league.

The Meeting also passed a resolution for the amendment of Regulation and Rules No. 4 (a) which read: "The Affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers of the Association, i.e. President, the Vice-President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer, and of five of the other members."

During the Meeting Mr E. M. Pereira of the Craigengower Cricket Club brought up the question of improving the standard of tennis in the Colony. He suggested that the Association should import a coach of international repute to teach Hongkong players.

In reply Lt. Col. H. Owen-Hughes, President of the Association, said that the finances of the Association would not be able to pay the cost of importing a coach. He said that the best thing that could be done was for individual clubs to try and improve the standard of their young players themselves.

The Police Recreation Club was represented for the first time at the Meeting by Mr C. G. Marsh.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were: Lt. Col. H. Owen-Hughes (President); Mr Daniel Chen (Vice-President); Mr G. A. Noronha (Hon. Treasurer); Mr Ho Kau-lau (Hon. Secretary); Messrs E. E. Story, B. Gossano, A. W. Augustad, B. Heenan, J. W. Leonard (members of the Executive Committee); Mrs J. Scholes, the Hon. M. W. Lo, Messrs J. D. Mackie, Ip Koon-hung and E. M. Pereira (Interport Selection Committee).

Choong Brothers Outplay Indians In Exhibition

Marblehead, Massachusetts, Mar. 30.

Malaya continued its domination of the world badminton scene by sweeping both the singles and doubles matches in an exhibition before 600 fans here last night.

The brothers Choong from Penang, half of the touring Malayan team, took the doubles from the Indian team and ended up playing each other after defeating the Indians separately in the singles.

Eddy Choong, 23, beat former Indian Champion Trilock Nath Seth, 24, in a singles match by 15-7.

David Choong, 25, who with his younger brother makes up the world champion doubles team, defeated the 20-year-old Indian titlist, N. Nataraj, 15-10. In the third match Eddy beat his brother 15-12.

In the doubles, the Choongs beat Nataraj and Seth 15-3 and 15-5 after a brilliant opening set which the Indians took at 15-9.

The international exhibition was held under the sponsorship of the American Badminton Association.—United Press.



LEAGUE BADMINTON

Recreio Win Men's "C" Division Championship

By "ARGONAUT"

Club de Recreio yesterday annexed the Men's "C" Doubles Division Badminton League title when they defeated King's College Old Boys' Association in the inter-section final at Craigengower by six sets to three.

The match produced some good badminton with the youthful Recreio squad dominating in powerful aggressive play. The King's College Old Boys made up for their lack of speed with a fine defensive game but cracked up when they tried to go for the points.

The two Recreio combinations of Albert da Rosa and Basilio Xavier and Roy Remedios and Robert Nunes, who together won all Recreio's six sets, played an outstanding game throughout.

They gave Recreio an early lead when Rosa and Xavier accounted for S. P. Chan and K. B. Hui by 21-11 and Remedios and Nunes edged out K. L. Hui and P. H. Lau 21-13. Erratic play by Lionel Guterres and Daniel Castro cost them their set against the steady combination of P. C. Chau and K. F. Fung.

Recreio, however, forged ahead to 4-1 with two successive wins by their first two pairs. Veteran S. P. Chan and schoolboy player K. B. Hui made a grand effort to stem the tide by taking their set against Guterres and Castro to reduce their side's deficit to 2-4.

The champions made sure of the issue in the next set as Rosa and Xavier went to a 17-0 lead against K. F. Fung and P. C. Chau and eventually clinched the set and match at 21-5.

THE SCORES

Albert da Rosa & Basilio Xavier (Recreio) beat S. P. Chan & K. B. Hui 21-11; beat K. L. Hui & P. H. Lau 21-13; beat K. F. Fung & P. C. Chau 21-5. Roy Remedios & Robert Nunes (Recreio) beat Chan & Hui 23-21; beat Hui & Lau 21-13; beat Fung & Chau 21-9. Lionel Guterres & Daniel Castro (Recreio) lost to Chan & Hui 18-21; lost to Hui & Lau 12-21; lost to Fung & Chau 12-21.

KBGC ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club are reminded that the Annual General Meeting takes place at 8 p.m. this evening.

Eight Changes In England's Soccer Team

London, Mar. 29. After deliberating for one hour and 40 minutes today, England's football selectors produced a team to play Scotland in the World Cup qualifying match in Glasgow on April 8, that will cause much controversy.

Only three of the players in the side beaten 3-3 by Hungary last November are retained. They are goalkeeper Merrick, right-half Wright and left-half Dickinson.

Stanforth, Byrne, Clarke and Nicholls are new internationals. Wright was surprisingly chosen in his old position at right-half, since he has established himself at centre-half for Wolverhampton, and was expected to play in that position.

The recall of Ivor Broadis is something of a surprise, but the attack looks to have punch and may settle down into an effective force.

Byrne, Stanforth and Clarke probably earned their places after a fine display for England against Germany in last week's "B" international.

Team — Merrick (Birmingham), Stanforth (Huddersfield), Byrne (Manchester United), Wright (Wolverhampton, Captain), Clarke (Tottenham Hotspur), Dickinson (Preston North End), Broadis (Newcastle), Allen (West Bromwich), Nicholls (West Bromwich), Mullan (Wolverhampton), Foster.



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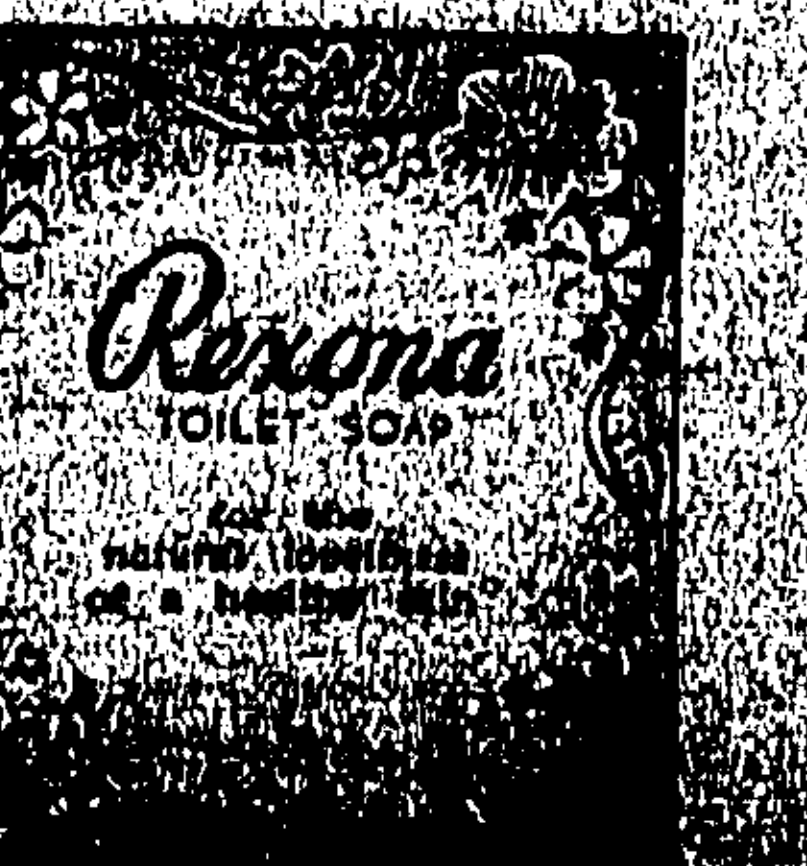
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"ALCINOUS"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Apr.	14th Apr.
"ANTIOCHUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	23rd Apr.	24th Apr.
Arrives			
"CYCLOPS"	Glasgow, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, London & Hamburg	24th Apr.	25th Apr.
"PERSEUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th May	6th May

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

Sails			
G. "ANTIOCHUS"	Liverpool	5th Apr.	Hong Kong
S. "CYCLOPS"	do	6th Apr.	do
G. "PERSEUS"	do	13th Apr.	do
S. "LAOMEDON"	do	24th Apr.	do
G. "ANCHISES"	do	2nd May	do
S. "CLYTONEUS"	3rd Apr.	8th May	do
G. "PYRRHUS"	7th Apr.	14th May	do
S. "AENEAS"	18th Apr.	23rd May	do

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

Proposal to change Ship's name

We, China Union Trading Company, Limited, Room No. 411-2-3, Alexander House, Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong, hereby give notice that in consequence of transfer of the title of the ownership, we have applied to the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, under section 47 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, in respect of the following ships:

steam tug "Halley" of HONG KONG REGISTRY, Official Number 180897, Gross tonnage 54.43 tons, lighter "Hingley" of HONG KONG REGISTRY, Official Number 152090, Gross tonnage 217.53 tons and lighter "Yardley" of HONG KONG REGISTRY, Official Number 152097, Gross tonnage 217.15 tons, heretofore owned by Peters & Co., Ltd., Hong Kong, for permission to change their names as follows:

"Red Leaf", "Fern Leaf" and "Gold Leaf" respectively and to have them registered in their new names at the Port of HONG KONG as owned by China Union Trading Company, Limited, Hong Kong.

Any objection to the proposed change of names must be sent to the REGISTRAR OF SHIPPING at HONG KONG within SEVEN days from the appearance of this advertisement.

Dated at Hong Kong the 29th day of March, 1954.

CHINA UNION TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.
PAN CHI-CHIANG, Director.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that The Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited, have leased the premises known as the "Lido" registered at the Land Office as Rural Building Lot 368 and situate at Repulse Bay, Hong Kong, to Ching Gar Noon of Room 424, Hong Kong Hotel Building, Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong aforesaid for the term of five years from the date hereof (with right of renewal for a further five years).

Members of the general public are notified that whilst the lease remains in force the said Ching Gar Noon is solely responsible for all liabilities in connection with the business carried on by him in the said premises.

By Order of the Board of Directors of
THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI HOTELS, LIMITED.
A. SOMMERFELT, Secretary.

31st March, 1954.

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction on Friday, the 2nd April, 1954, at 10.30 a.m., at the Hong Kong & Shanghai Hotel Building, First Floor.

A VALUABLE COLLECTION OF CURIOS,

Comprising: Jade, Porcelain & Ivory Figures, Vases & Bowls, Table Screens, Ornaments, Hand Paintings, etc., etc.

On View Now.
Terms:—50% in cash on fall of Hammer and balance by Noon the following day.

A. E. B. de SOUSA, Auctioneer.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

m.s. "ALCINOUS"
Damaged cargo on this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10.15 a.m. on April 2 and 3, 1954, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents,
Hongkong, March 30, 1954.

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL



STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

R.M.S. "CHUSAN"

ROUND TRIP TO JAPAN, APRIL 1954.			
Dep: Hongkong	6 p.m.	19th April	
Arr: Yokohama	10 a.m.	23rd April	
Dep: Yokohama	4 p.m.	24th April	
Arr: Kobe	Noon	25th April	
Dep: Kobe	9 a.m.	27th April	
Arr: Hongkong	Noon	30th April	

REDUCED ROUND TRIP RATES

First Class £66.6.0; Tourist Class £42.10.0.

For Further Particulars Apply to:—
MACKINNON MACKENZIE & CO., OF HONGKONG LTD.

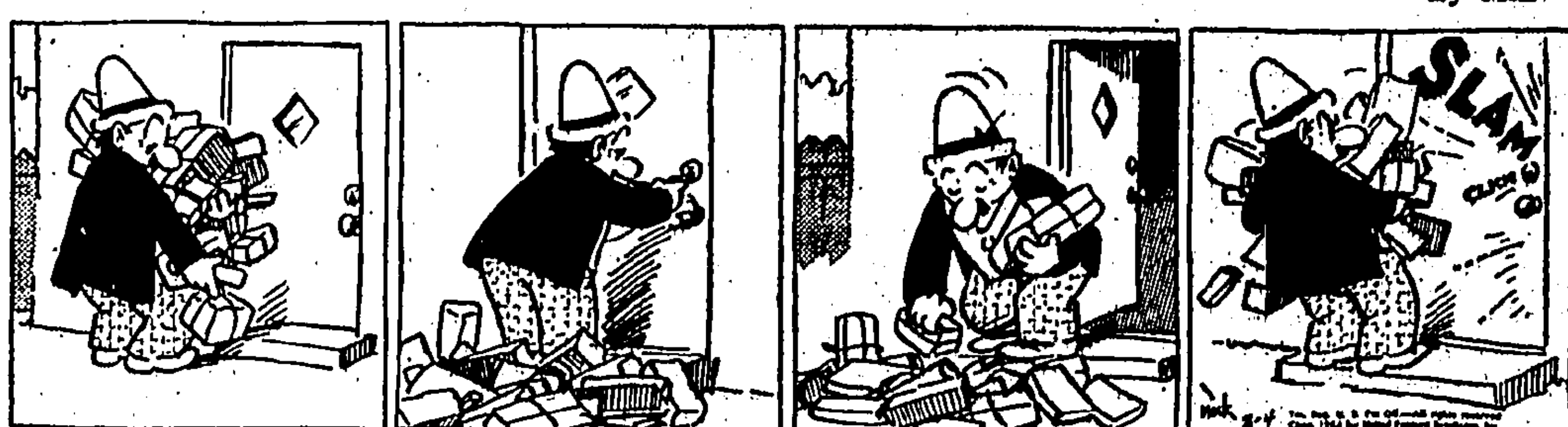
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



FERD'NAND

By Mik



NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



P&O B.I.E&A COMPANIES

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL S.N. CO.

PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards			
"CORFU"	Leaves London	Due Hongkong	
"CHUSAN"	4th March	6th April	
"CANTON"	19th March	17th April	
	1st April	4th May	

Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards			
"SURAT"	Arriving	From	UK
"SOMALI"	8th April		
	16th April		

With liberty to call at Belawan before or after Straits Ports and at Bombay if inducement offers.

Tanks available for cargo of Oil in Bulk Space for refrigerated cargo. Limited Passenger accommodation

BRITISH INDIA S.N. CO., LTD.

"WARORA"	due 6th Apr.	from Japan	Port Swettenham, Rangoon, & Calcutta
"SANTHA"	due 17th Apr.	from Calcutta	
	sails 16th Apr.	for Japan	

P. & O.B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"ORMARA"	due 3rd Apr.	for Singapore, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kurrum, Bahrat direct. Other Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay	
	sails 4th Apr.	from Persian Gulf	
"ORNA"	due 1st Apr.	for Japan	
	sails 2nd Apr.	from Japan	
"ORDIA"	due 25th Apr.	for Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kurrum, Bahrat, Kuwait and other Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay	
	sails 26th Apr.	from Japan	
"UMARIA"	due 25th Apr.	from Persian Gulf	
	sails 26th Apr.	for Japan	

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

"NELLORE"	due 1st Apr.	from Australia	
	sails 2nd Apr.	for Japan	
"NELLORE"	due 19th Apr.	from Japan	
	sails 23rd Apr.	for Australia, Wellington, Sydney & Melbourne	

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

For full particulars apply to:
MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO.
OF HONG KONG LTD.
Telephone Nos. 27721-4.

EVERETT LINES

EVERETT ORIENT LINE

Fast regular freight—refrigerator—passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Rangoon, Calcutta and Chittagong.

"BRADEVERETT"

Arrives	Apr. 8	from Manila.
Sails	Apr. 9	for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta.

"REBEVERETT"

Arrives	Apr. 15	from Singapore
Sails	Apr. 15	for Kobe & Yokohama.

(Accepting cargo for transshipment Kobe/Pusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STAR LINE

Fast regular freight—refrigerator—passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi and Persian Gulf Ports.

"THAI"

In Port	Loading
Sails	Apr. 1 for Kobe & Yokohama,

"STAR ARCTURUS"

Arrives	Apr. 4	from Japan.
Sails	Apr. 5	for Singapore, Penang, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Rhoramahar, Basrah & Bahrain.

(Accepting cargo for transshipment Kobe/Pusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STEAMSHIP CORPORATION S/A

(Incorporated in the Republic of Panama with limited liability)

Chinese Department Telephone 28293.
Queen's Building, Telephone 31206.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for registered correspondence posted at P.O. Hongkong. The latest times shown elsewhere, which in general, are earlier than the above, can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest times for registered letters are generally one hour earlier than the times shown above. Particulars regarding other mail can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Japan, 8 p.m.
Formosa, Okinawa, 6 p.m.
Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, 6 p.m.
By Surface:
Philippines, 1 p.m.
Africa, North Rhodesia (via L. Marquie) 2 p.m.
Macao, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

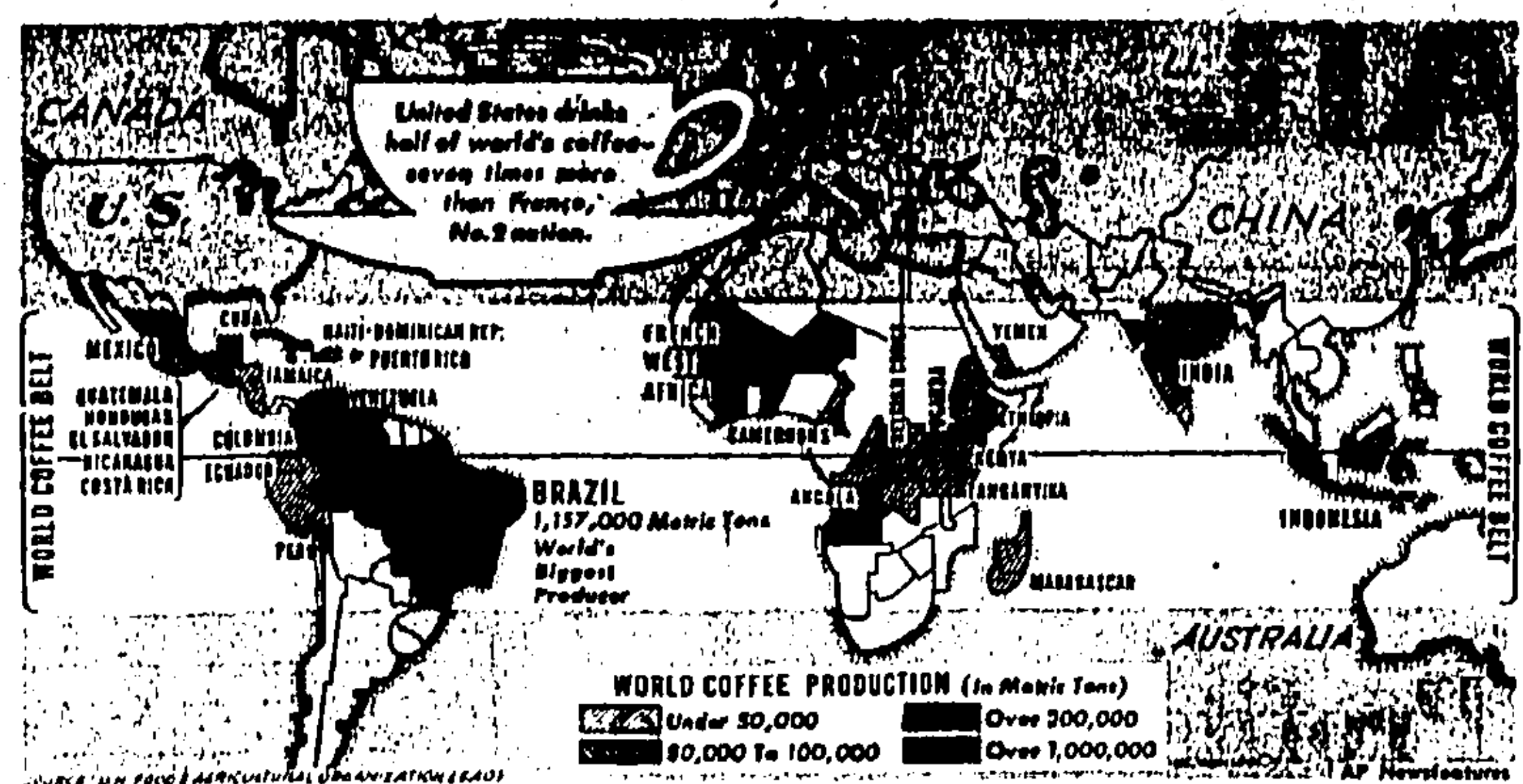
By Air:
India, Ceylon, 10 a.m.
Thailand, Burma, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 11 a.m.
Japan, 2 p.m.
Formosa, 2 p.m.
Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A. & Canada, 2 p.m.
Philippines, 2 p.m.
China, People's Republic, 2.30 a.m.
Thailand, Noon.
Japan, Nippon, 2 p.m.
Macao, 2 p.m.
Malaya, Indonesia, 2 p.m.
Macao, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

By Air:
Thailand, Burma, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 11 a.m.
Indo-China, France, 11 a.m.
Formosa, Japan, Korea, 2 p.m.
Indo-China, 2 p.m.
Japan, U.S.A. & Canada, 2 p.m.
China, People's Republic, 2.30 a.m.

Bad Roads Caused Bankruptcy

Bad roads have caused the bankruptcy of a small business in the East. The owner, who had invested heavily in the business, found himself unable to pay his debts due to the high cost of transporting goods over the poor roads. The business, which had been thriving for some time, was forced to close its doors. The owner, who had been a successful businessman for many years, was left with a large debt and a ruined reputation. The story serves as a warning to other businessmen who may be tempted to invest in businesses that are heavily dependent on poor infrastructure.



Why Coffee Prices May Not Fall For Another Two Years

By A. I. Goldberg, Associated Press Writer

People in the United States drink more than half the world's coffee. America imported 1,339,481 tons (enough to fill 2,678,962,000 pound cans) in 1952 and imports for the first nine months of 1953 were running about three per cent higher than that.

France is a poor second at the world's coffee table. For every cup that Frenchmen sip, Americans gulp down seven.

Americans drink more coffee than is grown in Brazil, by far the world's biggest producer. In 1952, the latest for which totals are available, Brazil produced 1,157,000 of the world's total of 2,370,000 metric tons. A metric ton, used on the international coffee exchange, is 2,204 pounds. The American ton is 2,000 pounds.

Last year frost nipped millions of coffee trees in Brazil. That is the reason for the current coffee crisis. Brazil, the No. 1 coffee-producing nation, has been hard hit and the United States, the No. 1 coffee-drinking nation, is having to pay higher prices.

The full extent of damage to Brazilian coffee plantations hasn't yet been determined. It takes three to four years for newly planted coffee trees to bear.

Crop estimators of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization report world prices are likely to remain firm early in 1954 because of the tight supply and uncertainty about this year's crop in Brazil.

FAO experts say it might even be 1955 before world coffee prices start to come down.

With the exception of Britain, all Western European countries in 1953 imported more coffee than the year before. Taking tea off rationing in Britain cut coffee consumption there.

Hot Black Markets

Europeans always have been heavy coffee drinkers. After World War II coffee ranked with cigarettes as a hot black market item in Europe.

Here are some factors, cited in the latest FAO statistical bulletin, that have a bearing on the price of coffee:

"Under normal weather conditions, Brazil may produce almost as much this year as last. It depends on whether the frost just nipped the buds, damaging one year's crop, or completely killed the trees.

"Production in other coffee-growing countries is likely to rise.

"Indications are that production will expand considerably

during the second half of this decade when new plantings come into full bearing.

"If the current high prosperity of the coffee industry is used for rejuvenating old plantations and improving quality, bigger yields and lower prices may come sooner than anticipated."

The accompanying map is based on FAO's latest international coffee survey. It shows that coffee is grown in a fairly narrow band about 3,750 miles wide in lands along both sides of the equator.

Most production is concentrated in Central and Latin America, especially Brazil, Colombia and Mexico. The rest is scattered across the Caribbean, Africa, Indonesia and Indo-China, wherever a combination of climate and cheap labour make it practicable to grow and harvest coffee beans.

Origin: Ethiopia

The highest Brazilian crop on record was 1933 — 1,777,000 metric tons. Brazilians have not forgotten. That was during the depression. Unable to sell their coffee beans, Brazilian plantation owners had to burn or dump them into the sea. Some owners quit production entirely then.

Coffee countries never have been able to agree on planned production schedules. The war took some areas out of production for the farming of other foods. Japanese occupation in the Dutch East Indies — now Indonesia — cut coffee production there.

Some of these areas are on their way back. Britain's West African Cameroons has begun to produce coffee commercially.

The Kremlin Frowns On Miracles

Moscow, Mar. 30. Youngsters in the Volga region of Ulyanovsk "are not yet free of religious prejudices," the Soviet youth paper Komsomol Pravda complained.

Russian youth are taught not to believe in God or religion. There is an answer for everything in natural sciences, they are told.

But in Ulyanovsk, the newspaper accused, the local youth leader had failed to make "even the least effort to help children to cast aside religious folly." The youngsters still seemed to be seeking "miracles."

Komsomol Pravda said two girls, Valya Filipova and Galya Tarasova, were taken in by "fraudulent tricks of the charlatans" when they claimed to see an ikon "come to life" in the village church.

A Komsomol Soviet Youth Organization member, who "called down on himself" general condemnation by performing a religious ceremony, had been expelled.

The newspaper cited three schoolboys who "for several

years dressed in cassocks, were reading the lessons, singing in the church choir and assisting the priests." Another schoolboy, "having fallen under the influence of church-goers," stopped learning his lessons.

"In the Sursky district of the Ulyanovsk region, there is a 'holy' mountain and three 'holy' springs. In the summer, half a month before the feast of St. Nikola of the Summer, believers assemble here. Even young people do so. Some bathe in the 'holy' springs, addressing to St. Nikola, the request that they be cured."

"All this goes on before the very eyes of the district leaders and Komsomol officials," the newspaper declared.

The same issue of Komsomol Pravda reported a five-day seminar at Kazan on questions of "natural science and atheistic propaganda." — China Mail Special.

Ethiopia, where the first coffee bean is supposed to have come from, remains one of the lesser producers.

Coffee experts say it is difficult to get accurate production and sales figures. That is one reason some Congressmen have been demanding investigations—to find out if coffee stocks have been hoarded to force up the price, to find out whether production controls have had any effect.

Americans are not the only ones paying higher prices. As coffee passed \$1 a pound in the United States, it was beginning to rise from \$1.35 to \$1.62 a pound in the Scandinavian countries. People in coffee-growing countries also began to pay more for lower grade coffee which was not exported.

Latin American spokesmen claim relations will be strained if the American coffee-buying public tries to force down prices by means of a "boycott," especially with the United States holding butter at a high price.

A history of coffee published by the FAO indicates that coffee, in berry form, was introduced to Yemen from Ethiopia as a brew for religious rites. Its use spread over the Arab world, and throughout Africa about the same time. Some, chewed the berries without any other preparation. Some people roasted the coffee with butter.

For Medical Use

From Mecca, the sacred city of the Mohammedans, coffee drinking spread to Cairo. The first public coffee house at Constantinople was opened in 1554—just four centuries ago. Venetian and Dutch seamen took coffee beans—first restricted to medical use because of high cost—to Europe early in the 17th century, and coffee houses began to spring up in the principal cities of Europe. Some doctors and scientists first opposed its use.

It appears that coffee was drunk in colonial New England by 1670. The Dutch began planting coffee in the East Indies in 1690, and in Ceylon, the West Indies in 1714. The French planted coffee with some difficulty on the island of Martinique by 1723.

From then on Catholic missionaries especially were instrumental in taking coffee to the Caribbean islands and elsewhere in Latin America.

The type of coffee that comes from Brazil — coffee arabica, also called Arabian coffee, Abyssinian coffee, Brazilian coffee and common coffee — furnishes 90 per cent of the world's output.

In its latest compilation, the FAO lists 70 countries and territories importing coffee—with the exception of the Soviet Union, a tea-drinking country.

Some other heavy coffee users are Belgium, West Germany, Italy, Sweden, Britain, Canada, Argentina and the United States. That is why the United States has a large-scale coffee program, according to the FAO, for "the purpose of securing a steady supply of coffee for the American people."

Attempt To Put NZ Oil Drilling On A Sound Basis

Wellington, March 30.

Experimental drilling for oil in New Zealand is about to begin with the aid of equipment from the United States and under the leadership of a British manager.

For many years the oil wells of Taranaki have been producing regularly, although, admittedly, only a mere dribble. In fact, they are among the oldest wells in the world, and certainly the oldest in the British Commonwealth.

No producing well in the area has ever failed, so experts are certain that there must be an oil source somewhere there, but lack of equipment and finance has held back the full-scale investigation that is needed to find the source.

Oil interests are convinced that it is there, and now they intend to find it.

Thirteen truck loads of equipment for the new drilling venture have reached New Plymouth for the Ekmont Oil Wells. It is also bringing a substantial amount of gear from the United States. Operations will be managed by Mr. Alan Rutherford, who for 14 years was engaged with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in Britain and Persia.

Three wells are to be sunk in the immediate future, the location of the second and third depending on what the first drilling reveals.

A depth of 2,200 feet has been decided on, this being the depth at which existing wells have been producing.

"I feel extremely confident that a payable field exists, and I hope to prove that before this year is over," said Mr. Rutherford. "All the evidence we have points to the existence of a payable field."

It is 88 years since the first well was sunk in Taranaki and 87 years since the first oil flowed, and in all that time the wells have produced a modest 4,700,000 gallons, not sufficient to keep New Zealand going for a week.

ACCIDENTS, HOPE

It has been a period of accidents, controversy and disappointment, with spots of glowing hope.

A well was drilled near New Plymouth several years before the first drilling was carried out in the United States.

Fifty-seven bores have since been put down; most of them produced gas, 25 produced oil, but only three are operating today.

One producer brought out 930 gallons a day in 1891, but broken

tools choked the pipe, ending the flow.

Another brought up 400 gallons a day in 1895, but water flooded it.

A third gave 215,000 gallons before broken tools choked it to standstill.

So the story goes on. In the early 1920's a Taranaki company sold its tiny refinery to the Anglo-Persian Company, which transferred the plant to Persia and re-created it.

The oil is there at Taranaki, and the significant fact is that no well that ever stopped producing did so because it ran out of oil. Mechanical and technical setbacks closed them down.

Two of those still in operation now have been yielding a steady 400 gallons a day since 1930.—China Mail Special.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York, Mar. 30.

Strong aircraft stocks, with individual gains ranging to more than 4 points, featured the stock market in its third consecutive session of advance today.

Rails, in a considerably less conspicuous way, also featured. The carriers, which have trailed the rest of the market consistently, piled up numerous fractional gains to register the widest average percentage gain.

Trading was brisk all day, highlighted by continued heavy demand for RKO Pictures, which appeared on strings of large blocks — 10,000 shares, 20,000, and one of 32,100. It traded most of the day at \$6 1/4, and a new high; then closed at \$6. Stockholders of the company last week approved sale of all assets to Howard Hughes in a cash transaction.

Glenn Martin followed in the active on demand generated by an excellent earnings report which sent the stock up 2 points at one time to a new high of \$23 1/4. It closed \$23 1/4, where in the group, Boeing rose \$4 1/2 to a new top at \$78 1/2.

Five of the ten most active issues were aircrafts.

Total turnover of 2,130,000 shares, compared with 1,870,000 shares yesterday. Non-ferrous metals also continued to respond to firming metal prices and new Government stockpile goals. Reynolds Metals rose 1 1/4, Consolidated Mines was active and advanced \$1 1/2 to \$10. Steels firmed.

Of 1,172 issues traded, 555 were higher, 327 lower. There were 101 new highs set, 13 new lows.

The NY Stock Exchange bond volume was \$3,000,000, and the American Stock Exchange volume was 480,000 shares.

Dow Jones closing averages were:

30 Industrials 300.08
50 rails 99.50
25 utilities 45.95
40 bonds 112.90
40 common 101.20
Comm. future price index 180.50
—United Press

New York Cotton Prices

New York, Mar. 30. Prices of cotton futures closed today as follows:—

May 1954 12.50
July 1954 12.40
September 1954 12.30
November 1954 12.20
January 1955 12.10
March 1955 12.00
May 1955 11.90
July 1955 11.80
September 1955 11.70
November 1955 11.60
January 1956 11.50
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July 2023 0.00
September 2023 0.00
November 2023 0.00
January 2024 0.00
March 2024 0.00
May 2024 0.00
July 2024 0.00
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January 2030 0.00
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September 2030 0.00
November 2030 0.00
January 2031 0.00
March 2031 0.00
May 2031 0.00
July 2031 0.00
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January 2032 0.00
March 2032 0.00
May 2032 0.00
July 2032 0.00
September 2032 0.00
November 2032 0.00
January 2033 0.00

COURT HAS MORTUARY FOR THE DEAD